

## 11 killed in Johannesburg attack

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Eleven people were killed and 11 injured Wednesday night when gunmen fired randomly at packed minibuses near violence-torn Kaituma black township east of here, police said. Police spokesman Captain Wilus Weber said gunmen armed with pistols in a pickup and others armed with AK-47 military-style assault rifles opened fire on the taxis and passing motorists during peak hour traffic. Reporters at the scene said bodies, glass and spent cartridges littered the road. In one car, an old man was lying slumped over the driver's seat. Capt. Weber said the attack appeared to be part of a war between rival taxi groups and could have been in retaliation for the killing of a taxi driver in the area earlier this week. Earlier, police reported five people killed and at least 80 houses burnt overnight in running battles between supporters of rival political parties in the KwaZulu-Natal coastal resort of Margate. Among those killed was a young child shot while being carried on her fleeing mother's back, police spokesman Lieutenant Dawood Kader said.

# Jordan Times

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## Clinton in Poland

WARSAW (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton arrived in Warsaw on Wednesday at the start of a 26-hour visit to Poland on the second stage of a European tour. Mr. Clinton flew into Warsaw's main military airport from the Latvian capital Riga and planned talks with President Lech Walesa. He will address parliament on Thursday and briefly meet the foreign ministers of Poland and other Central and Eastern European countries before heading to Naples for a summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations.

## Hizbollah guerrillas kill Israeli soldier

MARIYOUN (AFP) — Hizbollah guerrillas killed an Israeli soldier in South Lebanon Wednesday when they fired a rocket at an Israeli position, security sources in the region said. The attack took place in Rihan, in the central sector of Israel's "security zone." Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), confirmed the attack, saying six rockets and several mortar shells struck two positions held by SLA and Israeli forces, at 6:45 p.m. (1545 GMT). Israeli and SLA artillery immediately opened up, bombarding areas facing the security zone, the SLA said. The pro-Iranian Hizbollah said its armed wing, the Islamic Resistance, "targeted an Israeli convoy at the Rihan position and scored a direct hit." On Monday one Israeli soldier was killed and another wounded in a Hizbollah attack on Rihan.

## Iran arrests woman in murder of priests

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian police arrested a woman suspected of involvement in the murder of two priests in the city of Zahedan, southern Iran, on Wednesday. The woman, Farah, 34, was arrested after a brief visit to her home in Zahedan on Wednesday and taken to a prison in Tehran. She was linked to the 1993-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq opposition group, IRNA quoted a security official as saying. The reported arrest was made a day after police confirmed the murder of 62-year-old Protestant preacher Tamas Michaelian and said they had found the body of Mehdi Dibaj, a pastor of the Assembly of God Church, in a forest in western Tehran (see page 12).

## Mujahideen end military exercises

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's main opposition group, the Iraq-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq, ended military maneuvers Wednesday billed as the largest live-fire exercise ever held by the rebels. The 15-day exercises, named "Phoenix of Liberty," were held by the Mujahideen's military wing, the National Liberation Army, on the Iraqi side of the border with Iran. They were attended by Massoud Rajavi, head of the Mujahideen. An armed division of tanks and armored personnel carriers, a special commando battalion and a helicopter squadron took part in the exercises.

## 'Insider trading' lands Frenchman in jail

PARIS (R) — A Paris appeals court on Wednesday jailed a former senior official in the "Pechiney affair," a major insider trading scandal which tainted France's former socialist government. The court overturned a lower court acquittal to give Alain Boublil, former chief aide to the late Socialist Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy, two years in jail, one of them suspended. The court said Mr. Boublil in 1988 tipped off businessman Roger Patrice Pelat, a close friend of Socialist Prime Minister Francois Mitterrand, that state-owned firm Pechiney S.A. was about to take over U.S. company American CAN.

# King: No Syria-Jordan crisis

## Damascus is aware of Jordanian moves, HM says after summit with Mubarak

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with Agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said Wednesday Jordan and Syria did not have any problems over the Kingdom's progress in peace talks with Israel and that the Syrian leadership was aware of Jordan's moves.

The King's comment came against a backdrop of media suggestions that Damascus-Amman relations were "strained" as a result of the recent Jordanian-Israeli agreement to engage in substantive negotiations on key issues such as border demarcation and water rights. "I don't think there is any problem whatsoever," said the King. "I haven't heard anything to the contrary from my brother the president (Hafez Al Assad) of Syria," the King told reporters. "As far as the peace process is concerned, there is a commitment by Syria and by all of us to approach the subject seriously and to hope to arrive at a comprehensive peace," the King said. "I believe they are aware of everything they have been doing and I do not think there is any reason to consider that there is a problem or crisis."

King Hussein, in comments in Alexandria where he held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a brief visit he paid on Wednesday and to Jordan Television upon his return home, also affirmed the seriousness of the Jordanian-

Israeli talks scheduled to begin in the third week of July. (Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Wednesday that the talks were scheduled to begin near the border on June 18. Jordanian sources confirmed that the negotiations would start around that date.)

"We are on the verge of conducting serious negotiations on the ground between the two concerned parties (Jordan and Israel) sometime this month, and we hope we will cover all the subjects ratified in Washington," the King told a joint news conference in Alexandria with President Mubarak.

In Amman, the King told Jordan Television that his talks with the Egyptian leader dealt with bilateral relations, the civil war in Yemen and other regional issues. The visit provided a "good chance for an exchange of views concerning fresh developments at critical stage," said the King of his third meeting with President Mubarak since the end of the Gulf war.

He said he had "frank discussions" with Mr. Mubarak on the two-month-old civil war in Yemen and related issues as well as other topics of mutual concern.

Answering questions, the King emphasized the need for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation and coordination and reiterated Jordan's willingness to extend all assistance to the Palestinians.

"We welcome the Palestinians leaders to Amman at any time, and we are open to

discuss any subject of mutual concern, and we will provide assistance to the Palestinians whenever we can and try to settle any problem that could surface during the meetings," the King said.

Asked what was the status of economic cooperation between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the King said: "We have already started steps in this regard on the basis of an agreement reached by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee."

The reference was to an accord worked out in May between Jordanian and PLO officials on the modalities of implementing a Jan. 7 economic cooperation agreement signed by the two sides.

However, that accord has not been ratified by the PLO leadership, which signed an agreement on economic ties with Israel in April. That document is seen to have limited Palestinian options of dealing with Jordan in economic affairs.

"There is no question about the need for further meetings to discuss the whole situation and review various issues, since we believe that there must be cooperation and coordination between the two sides," the King said.

In his comment in Alexandria, the King described Egyptian-Jordanian relations as excellent.

"I am grateful to the president for giving me this opportunity to visit him and to discuss everything as we always do in complete candor and frankness," he said.

King Hussein said Jordanian-Israeli negotiations would be devoted to "problems linked to Jordanian sovereignty over territory, waters and all the other subjects laid down in the agenda" adopted in the United States in September last year.

He voiced his "hope that progress will be made in the other tracks of negotiations," especially in Israel's negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

"Now we are looking after our responsibilities towards our people and towards our country," he said.

President Mubarak said he had not been given a message from President Assad to pass on to King Hussein, when he met Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi Wednesday morning.

There is no need to have mediation between Arab parties," Mr. Mubarak said.

In reply to a question on Jordanian-Syrian coordination, the King said:

"When the opportunity arises we will do whatever we can. Ours is an open book and there is nothing that we like to elaborate on except to suggest that we all started at the same moment and we are committed to the establishment of a just and durable

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# Arafat, Rabin reach accord on expanding Palestinian self-rule

PARIS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, fresh from his triumphant return to Gaza and Jericho, agreed on Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on a procedure for advancing the next stage of Palestinian self-rule.

"A fresh impulse was given to peace by Israelis and Palestinians," Mr. Arafat told reporters after the two men met for the first time since May. "The meeting was positive, fruitful. We agreed on some major issues and some other issues will require more discussions," he said.

Mr. Rabin warned Wednesday that the most difficult phase of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process was dawning, with extremists on both sides still threatening to undermine the progress already made.

"The most difficult and also most dangerous phase is beginning," Mr. Rabin said, receiving a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural (UNESCO) peace prize in Paris along with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We are going slowly, carefully with cautious small steps, because the enemies of peace are more numerous than we imagined," Mr. Rabin said.

"Extremists are watching us from both sides of the barricade — Palestinians and Israelis. And we, the Israelis and Palestinians, do not have the right to fail," Mr. Rabin said, adding that "awareness and prudence" were needed.

The three leaders received UNESCO's Houphouët-Boigny peace prize for having clinched the historic Israeli-PLO autonomy accord, signed in Washington last September.

The award was named after the former Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouët-Boigny.

Mr. Rabin said "caution" was needed on both sides because "a century of hostil-



Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (left) and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (second from left) face PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat (right) during talks on Palestinian autonomy in Paris (AFP photo)

ity cannot be removed just by a magic handshake in Washington, nor can the bloodshed be covered up by the beating of drums."

Mr. Arafat received a tumultuous welcome when he returned to the Gaza Strip Friday after 27 years of exile.

"We have set out on the road to peace for our children and our children's children," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Peres said the time had come "for a meeting between the Jewish and Arab renewal, between the realities of a Jewish state and the needs of the Palestinian people."

For Israeli leaders the peace accord was "a moral choice and a political process," he said.

"I sense that the time has come for an historic divorce. A divorce from war, hatred, suspicion and pain."

"An inclination to dominate the Palestinian people is not only a violation of the Palestinians' right but also a contradiction of the Jewish heritage."

Mr. Arafat announced later he had invited French President Francois Mitter-

rand to visit him in the newly autonomous Gaza and Jericho areas.

Speaking after a 40-minute meeting with Mr. Mitterrand, Mr. Arafat said "this will be a first step for all of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza."

"We appreciate the support of the French people and government," Mr. Arafat said, describing his talks with Mr. Mitterrand as "warm, lively and important."

Looking dazed after his whirlwind five-day tour of Gaza and Jericho and a night-time drive to Cairo for the flight to Paris, Mr. Arafat said he had pleaded with Mr. Rabin to free Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, jailed founder of the Islamic Movement Hamas.

"We were students together in Cairo. He is paralysed and there are humanitarian as well as political grounds to release him. I will continue to demand his release along with the other prisoners," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Rabin made no mention of Sheikh Yassin but Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, speaking on Israel Television, said Israel

would stand firm on its terms for his release, insisting he must sign a pledge renouncing violence and supporting the peace process (see page 12).

Israel has linked the release of nearly 6,000 Palestinian prisoners it is still holding to their renunciation of violence.

Mr. Rabin said Israel and PLO would issue invitations soon for a meeting of foreign ministers with Egypt and Jordan on the refugee problem.

Neither leaders mentioned the issue of withdrawing Israeli troops from West Bank urban areas, although both sides had said in advance it would play a major part in the talks.

Israel and the PLO agreed last year to negotiate in three stages and tackle easier issues first. Limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho was the first stage, finalized in May and crowned by Mr. Arafat's homecoming this week.

PLO officials want to press on with the second stage, quickly spreading self-rule to

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria on Wednesday (Petra photo)

# Street fighting in Aden; Mukalla's fall confirmed

## Gulf Arab bloc demands ceasefire, threatens recognition of south Yemen

Combined agency dispatches

RIVAL NORTHERN and southern Yemeni forces fought fierce street battles in the northern suburb of Aden Wednesday as correspondents confirmed the fall of Mukalla, another southern stronghold, to government forces.

Eight Arab states meeting in Kuwait demanded an immediate ceasefire and threatened to grant separatist southern Yemen recognition of the independence it is fighting for if the Yemeni civil war does not stop, Kuwait's foreign minister said.

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad's comments followed a joint warning issued here by foreign ministers from members of the so-called Damascus Declaration group that they would take unspecified measures if hostilities persist in Yemen.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters Arab Gulf states, Egypt and Syria, whose foreign ministers attended a two-day meeting in Kuwait on the crisis, "will recognize South Yemen if the efforts to stop the war do not succeed." He did not give a deadline.

The joint statement, issued moments before, said the

ministers decided that "continuation of the fighting will force their countries to take the steps they see suitable to deal with the developments ... in order to preserve the Yemeni and supreme Arab interests."

However, earlier Wednesday, Sheikh Sabah's deputy, Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shabien, said the eight countries, which were allies in the 1991 Gulf war, still counted on the United Nations to bring the fighting to a halt through its mediation efforts.

"I do not think the Damascus Declaration states will precede events with a recognition," Mr. Shabien said. "... The priority is for a ceasefire."

Mr. Shabien also said earlier that the south would only be recognized if it was agreed upon by both sides in the civil war.

In Wednesday's fighting in Aden, northern troops were beaten back to the edges of Aden airport and the nearby Khormaksar district, three kilometres from the city centre, correspondents reported.

But Khormaksar and the city centre were shelled by the northern forces loyal to President Ali Abdullah

Salah, who have been besieging the southern port city for a month.

Several kilometres further north, fierce clashes took place in the suburbs of Sheikh Othman, Dar Saad and Mansurah, in which at least four civilians were killed and 31 wounded.

A southern military spokesman said northern troops were trying to seize a prison in Mansurah where members of the Al Jihad Islamic fundamentalist movement were being held.

Southern sources said earlier Wednesday they had regained control of the airport and of Khormaksar, Mansurah and Sheikh Othman after a night of heavy fighting.

But no southern warplanes have taken off from the airport since Tuesday, correspondents said.

Tank battles raged in Khormaksar on Tuesday, and a northern military spokesman in Sanaa said his forces had seized control of the airport, Khormaksar and a dyke linking the city with the refinery suburb of little Aden.

Khormaksar links the hinterlands of the city to the

(Continued on page 7)

# Rabin: PLO must hike taxes to fund autonomy

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat must start raising taxes to finance autonomous development, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Wednesday.

"If he does not start collecting taxes, I don't know where he will find the money to pay for the police or for any development project," Mr. Rabin told the Haaretz newspaper.

Mr. Rabin predicted a period of "great poverty" for the Gaza Strip if the PLO and the donor countries failed to agree on the mechanics of handing over the hundreds of millions of dollars promised for self-rule.

"At the moment, there is still no solution," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Arafat said Monday he wanted to make a future Palestinian state an "economic tiger," but has admitted he returned to his people with empty pockets last Friday.

He accused the World Bank, which is demanding transparent accounting procedures, of seeking economic domination of the Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin recalled that he had undertaken in the May 4 agreement which launched autonomy to forward to the Palestinian authority 75 per cent of taxes and social security payments collected from Arabs from the Gaza Strip

and Jericho who work in Israel. "These are just small amounts," Mr. Rabin admitted.

The premier added that as long as Israel supplied the Palestinians with water and electricity they would have to pay for it and if they failed to do so the money would be taken out of customs duties.

Israel is continuing to collect duty on goods heading into the autonomous areas in the absence of a Palestinian system.

Mr. Rabin minimised recent right-wing and settler protest against Mr. Arafat and PLO autonomy saying they "will not be able to stop the peace process from going ahead."

Of a total of \$2.4 billion pledged to the Palestinians by donor countries over the next five years, only \$50 million has been put up so far.

A meeting of creditors planned for next weekend in Paris has been delayed until autumn, following difficulties faced by the Palestinian economy minister, Ahmed Qourie, during a recent visit to the United States.

In Jericho Tuesday, Mr. Arafat and his Palestinian National Authority ministers took the oath of office and immediately set about preparing a budget, new laws and a home-building programme for the underdeveloped territories, which they will run until elections likely in mid-October.

# Tawfik Ziad laid to rest


OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The funeral Wednesday of the popular Israeli-Arab mayor of Nazareth brought ministers of the new Palestinian self-rule authority and the Israeli government under the same roof in Israel for the first time.

Parliament member Tawfik Ziad, 65, was buried Wednesday in Nazareth, the largest Arab town in Israel and the place where Jesus is believed to have spent his childhood.

Several Israeli ministers and at least three of the Palestinian ministers sworn into the self-rule government a day earlier in Jericho attended the ceremony.

Ziad, also a poet renowned for writing about Israeli Arabs as the roots of the Palestinian people, died Tuesday in a head-on collision while returning from the Jericho ceremony.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sent his condolences to Ziad's family in a handwritten note, lauding Ziad as "a great man working for peace."

**Babiche**

Babiche Patisserie will keep its door open for service & take-out orders until 12 midnight on Thursday July- 7- 94

## Jobless Palestinians say peace gives no jobs

By Samia Nakhoul  
Reuter

GAZA — Hundreds of young men showed their way through a queue in Gaza on Tuesday, not to see Yasser Arafat but to reach a board listing those granted permits to work in Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader's return is not the highest priority for the unemployed men standing in the scorching sun outside the Palestinian-run labour office in the impoverished Gaza Strip.

All they want is a job and for most of them Israel is the only place to go.

Five days after Mr. Arafat ended 27 years exile to run the Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, many said they

were disappointed that the man they hoped would change their lives returned to Gaza saying he has no money.

"Abu Ammar is coming back to us penniless. We have waited and waited for him for so long and he returned empty-handed, with nothing," said Ismael Al-Ashram, jobless for more than a year.

"All we've got is speeches, ululations and clappings. He came back declaring his bankruptcy. This is his surprise to us."

The men cram around the notice board, wait until closing hours and then disperse disappointed. Many say they have been repeating the routine every day for the past six months.

"As long as there is no work we tell Abu Ammar that the situation will worsen," Mr. Ashram said.

pulling up his pockets to show they contained no money.

"People will rise up, kill and steal. If they don't give us jobs, there will be another intifada," he said.

"We don't want words to lift our morale, we want money to feed our children. Words could not replace bread," said Abdullah Shmoud, 31, an unemployed driver.

Mr. Arafat made it clear when he met European diplomats on Sunday that he has to deliver jobs fast or his popularity and peoples' commitment to the peace deal signed with Israel on May 4 would be at stake.

He said he desperately needed cash to pay teachers, civil servants, police, manpower and to set up the ministries that will carry the projects that will be financed by western

donor states.

Donor meetings in Paris have netted \$137 million for the Palestinian administration in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but the self-government budget is estimated at \$380 million.

The Palestinian economy went into a deep decline starting with the Palestinian uprising in 1987, the Gulf crisis of 1990 which devastated Palestinians' share of the Gulf job market.

Israel's closures to Palestinian workers last year are this in response to waves of attacks on Israelis have dealt another blow to the economy of the territories.

Klaus Worm, director of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency operations in Gaza, told Reuters the Palestinian authority's most pressing problem is unemployment. It has to create jobs for

almost 65,000 workers who were banned from working in Israel.

Another priority, Mr. Worm said, was setting up sewage lines, waste disposal, paving roads and building new water resources to accommodate the growing population.

The PLO needs to upgrade Gaza's outmoded hospitals, repair rundown schools and build new ones to accommodate large numbers of pupils. It must create classroom space for children of policemen and civil servants coming with Mr. Arafat as he moves his headquarters from Tunis.

"These people want to see improvement of the economic situation," one diplomat quoted Mr. Arafat as having told diplomats. "They want salaries and jobs. If they don't get them they will react."



## Hrawi: No separate peace

BEIRUT (AP) — President Elias Hrawi said Tuesday Lebanon would never sign a unilateral peace with Israel despite the absence of a final negotiating line.

"We shall remain committed to collective peace with other Arab partners and will never sign a separate deal," Mr. Hrawi said in a national television session with Lebanese University graduates.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.N. aid operations in Sudan threatened

NAIROBI (AFP) — The U.N. World Food Programme warned Tuesday that funding problems were threatening operations to deliver food to nearly four million people facing starvation in southern Sudan. In a statement released here, it said that a cereal pipeline in Khartoum for its relief programme was critically low and the curtailment or suspension of air operations due to lack of funding had added to the problems of aid deliveries. Against the background of reduced capacity and reduced resources, the situation on the ground in Sudan was deteriorating, as the majority of southern Sudanese entered the hunger-gap this year, a period between the exhausting of food stores from the previous harvest and availability of food from the 1994 harvest, the statement said. The U.N. agency said deliveries by air into southern Sudan through Khartoum, Kenya and Uganda had to be interrupted and severely curtailed between April and June due to lack of funding, resulting in deliveries of only 36 per cent of required food needs in Bhar Al Ghazal, Jonglei and Upper Nile.

### New envoy prepares for duties

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The new U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia met Tuesday with President Bill Clinton and prepared to assume the post vacant for nearly two years.

"The fact that I visited the president before I left showed the importance of this to the president," said Ray Mabius, a former governor of Mississippi. "The relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States is an important and crucial one for both countries." Mr. Mabius said Mr. Clinton expressed concern at the meeting over the fighting in Yemen and reiterated a call for a ceasefire.

### Lawyer kills 3, commits suicide in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A lawyer went berserk in a divorce court in the Iranian capital on Tuesday shooting dead his wife, mother-in-law and the judge before turning the gun on himself, the official agency IRNA said. Two other people attending the court were also badly wounded when Mohammad Ali Farid unleashed a volley of bullets after a quarrel with the cleric judge. He pulled out a revolver and shot his wife and her mother at point blank range, before killing judge Mahmoud Mussavi. He then turned the gun on himself, shooting himself twice in the throat, IRNA added.

### Morocco scraps anti-demonstration law

RABAT (AFP) — The Moroccan parliament scrapped a law against demonstrations as a court in the east of the country freed 14 protesters after reducing their jail sentences on appeal. The parliament unanimously abrogated a 1935 decree punishing "demonstrations endangering public order and in disrespect of authority" on a motion by the socialist and nationalist opposition parties. The opposition said the original decree was issued under the French protectorate and was aimed at repressing open confrontation by supporters of independence. Justice Minister Mohammed Idrisi Alami Machichi said the abrogation was in line with the desire by King Hassan II "to modernise the legislation in order to consolidate democracy with regard to respect for human rights." Coincidentally at Taza, in eastern Morocco, an appeal court ordered a two-year jail sentence imposed on 14 unemployed university graduates for staging an unauthorised demonstration to be reduced to three months suspended, a judicial official said.

### Britain demands details on Iraq prisoners

LONDON (R) — Britain demanded on Tuesday that Iraq give information about Kuwaitis held in its prisons and said it was not forthcoming soon the matter would be referred to the U.N. Security Council. Foreign Office Minister of State Douglas Hogg said Iraqi officials had "a Red X" initial response "to 71 of 609 inquiry files passed on Monday by the International Committee of the Red Cross" — more than 18 months ago. "We are demanding that Iraq's information on the other files very soon," Mr. Hogg said in written parliamentary reply. "If substantive progress is not made, this matter may have to be referred to the Security Council for further action," Mr. Hogg said an international committee overseeing the release of prisoners after the 1991 Gulf war would meet again in two months and would discuss Iraq's cooperation, or lack of it. Iraqi officials met the committee in Geneva on July 1 and promised to try to find out what happened to the 609 Kuwaitis.

### Would-be Rabin heir claims power base

TEL AVIV (R) — A young Israeli political rebel touted as a possible successor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin took control on Tuesday of the ruling Labour Party's traditional power base. Former Labour Health Minister Haim Ramon, 44, who was kicked out of the party earlier this year, was elected to head the Histadrut union federation in a stormy convention that formally ended Labour's 74-year domination of the body. In a series of political gambles the dovish, Tel Aviv-born lawyer has publicly embarrassed party regulars, who booed him out of Labour in February after he shamed Mr. Rabin with a bitter, nationally broadcast farewell speech as health minister at a party forum attended by the prime minister. Mr. Rabin hinted at the time Mr. Ramon — campaign manager for Mr. Rabin's 1992 electoral trouncing of the hardline Likud — was headed for political exile. But Mr. Ramon roared back with an independent list that ended Labour's seemingly immutable lock on the Histadrut leadership. Opinion polls have shown Mr. Ramon led all listed contenders to succeed Mr. Rabin. If 72-year-old prime minister and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, 70, stepped down from the leadership of Labour.

## 'Unfinished business' keeps crowds from Arafat

By Neil MacFarquhar  
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — It was supposed to be one of the most electrifying moments in Palestinian history: The return of Yasser Arafat to Gaza and the West Bank as president after leading his guerrilla movement through a rambling, 27-year exile.

But the five-day inaugural visit of the beloved Abu Ammar went a bit flat.

Analysts point to a variety of factors including the unfinished details in the self-rule agreement, a disappointing performance by Mr. Arafat from the start and growing insider-versus-outsider tensions that kept ward organisers sitting on their hands.

"Abu Ammar, the man with the leadership vision is no longer there. You have Yasser Arafat the man who negotiates the nitty gritty and can't even deliver on that," said West Bank political science professor Khalil Shikhi.

Organisers in the Gaza Strip had predicted that nearly all 800,000 residents would

turn out to cheer their leader. At most, 35,000 filled the main square for his Friday speech. In the West Bank seat of self-rule at Jericho, police on Tuesday braced for 250,000 West Bank residents. Not even the entire area population of 15,000 seemed to be on hand.

Mr. Arafat blamed the Israeli government Monday for keeping the crowds away. He said they violated the peace treaty by allowing settlers to rule the roads, blocking his supporters with acid clouds of black smoke from barricades of burning tyres.

"The army, the disruption, the attempts at intimidation, in a sense it encapsulates all the difficulties," said Hanan Ashrawi, Mr. Arafat's former spokeswoman.

The Israeli government denied it vehemently, saying they kept the roads clear and even protected those trying to go.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin urged Mr. Arafat to ask the Palestinians why they snubbed him in Jericho.

"No way did the army prevent the Palestinians from going to the ceremony orga-

nised in Jericho," Mr. Rabin said on state radio after Mr. Arafat accused Israel of stopping Palestinians.

"If they did not turn up Arafat would be better asking the Palestinians why."

"It is true that settlers tried to halt traffic, but not to the point of preventing Palestinians from getting there," Mr. Rabin said.

No doubt there was some violence. At one roadblock, protesters spotted an Arabic press sticker plus a palm tree decal popular among Arabs on the car of Miami Herald correspondent Carol Osenberg.

"Arab reporter, Arab reporter," she remembers them shouting before they swarmed over the car, kicked in a headlight and snapped off both the antenna and a windshield wiper. Police did not intervene until one threw scalding coffee at her.

But more important, the Palestinians themselves exhibited none of the effervescence that greeted the first units of Palestinian police two months ago. Everyone from teenagers to grandmothers stood in the glaring

sun for two days singing, clapping and dancing.

"I think people are fed up with celebrations and symbolic acts. They want to see action," said Gaza economist Salah Abdul Shafi.

The thousands of prisoners in Israeli jails from groups opposed to the peace process had appealed to Mr. Arafat to stay away until their release was assured. Millions in promised aid from Western donors has yet to come through.

And instead of simplifying their lives, the treaty means they have to go through both Palestinian and Israeli officials to get permits for everything from jobs to travelling abroad. Israel still controls agricultural and other exports. The safe passage routes agreed between the West Bank and Gaza have not been implemented.

"The euphoria that accompanied the Israeli troop withdrawal has dissipated. What remains are the problems of organising life," said Dr. Shikhi. "There is no civil authority and at the laymen level nothing has changed."

That disappointment was

compounded by the fact that Mr. Arafat's speeches have been rambling, disjointed discourses about unity and brotherhood rather than specific visions of what the future holds for Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat's decision to pick mostly older Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) members for important posts — all but ignoring the young men who led the uprising that paved the way for his return — caused a lot of grumbling.

Members of his Fateh faction feel abandoned, especially since he has cursed them harshly when they criticised his autocratic style. To make their point, they did nothing to get out the crowds.

Most feel that the current mood is more a dissatisfaction with the chaotic implementation of the peace treaty rather than the process or the man himself.

"The real celebration will be when all the exiles return, all the prisoners are released and the West Bank is liberated," said Sami Saadi, a 32-year-old Gaza boutique owner.

## For some Jews, Arafat is also their president

JERUSALEM (AP) — One of the most startling moments of Yasser Arafat's visit to Jerusalem was the inauguration of his self-rule government Tuesday, when a group of ultra-orthodox Jews walked across the stage and kissed him.

The bearded men in black felt hats, long black coats and black stockings were the leaders of Neturei Karta, an ultra-religious group based in Jerusalem.

Group head Rabbi Meir Hirsch was one of the first to kiss Arafat.

"We will make sure there is no discrimination between Jew and non-Jew in the Palestinian state, a non-sectarian state," said Rabbi Hirsch, who immigrated to Israel from Brooklyn, New York.

Rabbi Hirsch was associated with the Jewish Agency.

delegation to the peace talks that preceded last summer's breakthrough.

This group of several hundred believes the establishment of a secular state is a heresy because a Jewish state can only be created when the Messiah arrives.

They are prone to issue statements saying their children enjoyed themselves ripping "blue and white rags" off cars, a reference to the Israeli flag of blue stripes and a blue star of David on a white background.

They have been identified with the Palestinian cause since the 1970s, when they were active in the PLO's military wing.

The name Neturei Karta stems from the Aramaic for "guardians of the city," a reference to a holy Jewish text that says scholars are the true defenders of Jerusalem.

The most headline members refuse to carry Israeli identification cards, recognise Israeli courts or vote in

## Beirut landmarks levelled

BEIRUT (AFP) — Over the past two weeks dozens of buildings have been actively flattened by Israeli tanks, hotels, 19th century Ottoman souks, and even a police station devastated in Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

Demolition crews below up the landmark Rivoli building in the Lebanese capital as preparations for the reconstruction of the city centre picked up steam.

Like other buildings, the Rivoli was levelled because it stood in the way of a project to rebuild and develop the centre — a total of 4.4 million square metres of built-up area.

The project also had 20 years and has many of the city's oldest buildings which should have been preserved are being torn down.

Solidere, the private company which has taken upon itself the task of reviving the city centre, hopes to launch infrastructure work estimated at \$500 million in August.

The work to lay the infrastructure will cover one million square metres of the city centre and already 13 firms,

most of them Lebanese in joint ventures with foreign companies, are vying for contracts.

Last week an international jury chaired by Egyptian architect Abdel Wahed El Wakil selected French, Italian and British projects for the reconstruction of the souks, or markets.

Designs submitted by Anabel Karim Kassar of France, Adam D. Drisin of Italy and Mark Saade of Britain were pre-selected from among 353 projects. The winner of the contest will be announced later this month although his project will not be necessarily implemented.

The first attempt on Monday to demolish the Rivoli, built in the early 1950s and housing some of Beirut's oldest cinemas, offices and shops failed as several bystanders cheered.

A loud explosion echoed across the city, smoke mushroomed and the earth rumbled but still the Rivoli resisted.

It took two attempts and the equivalent of 200 kilograms of TNT to tear the Rivoli down. The adjacent Regent Hotel and four other buildings went the same way.

"They're destroying my city," said Ahmad, an engineer opposed to the removal of the Rivoli which he said was "the heart of Beirut."

The massive building, on the edge of the city centre's main square, stood as a symbol to Beirut's glorious past as a financial centre when the Lebanese capital was dubbed the Switzerland of the Middle East.

Before the destruction was undertaken, 141 families who had been squatting in the Rivoli and five other adjoining buildings.

Solidere Chairman Nasser Shamoun said last week: "Beirut has to be rebuilt quickly because Lebanon cannot live without a financial, economic and cultural centre."

The company was created after parliament passed a controversial law in 1991 allowing real estate firms to expropriate land for their benefit.

An initial plan to build a Manhattan-style landscape was shelved amid mounting criticism from conservatives who wanted to restore Beirut's traditional face.

### PRAYER TIMES

19:00 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Bury  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Move of the week "Jonah's House"

### WEATHER

03:57 Fair (Sunrise) Dubai  
06:31 22°C

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622N  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63541

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Makhlis Mazahrah 820425  
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 831039  
Dr. Mohammad Shugair 852693  
Dr. Mohammad Lulwah 853585  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy 637885

#### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Intimidate

AMMAN:  
Dusman Medical Centre 818813/32  
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Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

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Apricots	750/300
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Banana (Mukammal)	680
Cabbage	260/180
Carrot	140/180
Corn	300/180
Corn (large)	1200/700
Cauliflower	200/100
Cucumbers (large)	100/180
Cucumbers (small)	280/180
Eggplant	110/50
Figs	460/300
Grapes	700/500
Lemon	550/350
Orange (large)	480/350
Orange (small)	480/350
Onion (dry)	200/100
Onion (wet)	240/160
Pepper (hot)	340/280
Pepper (sweet)	280/180
Potato	380/250
Pumpkin	620/300
Tomato	110/50

## FAO meeting ends with warning of water shortages

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates to the 22nd regional meeting of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Wednesday ended their meetings in Amman with a warning that water shortages would be a major stumbling block in the path of economic and sustainable agricultural development in the Near East region.

Countries of this region working in cooperation with FAO need to draw up national strategies designed to promote agricultural development, including the consumption of water and raising the level of efficiency in handling water resources, said the delegates to the meeting.

They recommended that FAO establish a regional office in Jordan to provide services pertaining to agricultural and food production development to the countries of the region.

They also supported FAO's efforts towards con-

trolling and eradicating trans-boundary diseases and pests through a new "emergency prevention system" which would initially concentrate on combating locusts and rinder pests.

The delegates urged countries of the region to revise their own plans for the development of dry areas with a view to utilising a system integrating livestock with farming and also conducting research on ways to better develop pasture lands.

The delegates reviewed preparations for a world food summit due to be held in Canada in 1996, and studied issues related to the impact of structural adjustment programmes on agricultural and rural development, according to a statement issued at the final session.

It said the delegations underlined the need for regional governments to upgrade and increase their cooperation with FAO and to create a liaison committee

representing the countries to take up issues with the organisation.

The delegates also heard an FAO report on the organisation's activities in 1992 and 1993, and reviewed development projects in several of the participating countries.

The 180 delegates representing most Arab states, Cyprus and U.N. organisations operating in the region heard FAO Director General Jacques Diouf at the opening of the conference calling for a new agricultural revolution in order to feed one billion new mouths by the year 2000 and an additional four billion in the year 2030.

Dr. Diouf Wednesday left Amman and was seen off at the airport by Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif.

The delegations taking part in the conference toured Jerash and later visited several agricultural and forestry schemes in the Jerash district, accompanied by Khaled Khreisha, Jerash district governor, and other officials.



Scene from the Bakaa refugee camp market (Petra photo)

## Deputies complain of Bakaa conditions

AMMAN (Petra) — Two members of the House of Representatives, Ibrahim Shehadeh and Mohammad Oweida Wednesday complained that the Bakaa refugee camp of nearly 100,000 residents suffers from acute water shortages and other basic services and they demanded that the authorities extend immediate attention to the local population.

Set up in the wake of the 1967 war on a 1,400 dunums, the camp is congested with residents who lack regular transportation and municipal health services, said the two deputies in interviews with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The lack of regular garbage

collection has created huge mounds of garbage in the alleys and narrow streets of the camp, providing a fertile climate for rodents and insects, said the two deputies.

Mr. Shehadeh and Dr. Oweida noted there is no hospital in the camp and the residents continue to resort to Al Bashir and Jordan University Hospitals for medical attention that is unavailable at the camp's health centres run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Regular transportation throughout the camp is non-existent, although local residents benefit from the buses commuting between Irbid

and Amman, said the deputies.

Dr. Oweida said the camp should be regarded as an integral part of the Bakaa basin, and as such, should not be excluded from the government plans for industrial and agricultural development.

He said that he already took up the idea with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Interior Minister Salameh Hamdan and was awaiting their replies.

Dr. Oweida also suggested that the government help set up a marketplace outside the perimeter of the camp to help ease congestion inside the camp.

## Princess Basma heads 2-day workshop

### Committees report on status of Jordanian women

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A workshop, held to revise a draft paper to be presented at the Fourth World's Conference on Women in 1995, opened Wednesday with detailed presentations on the status of women in Jordan, particularly in their legislative rights, their social, economic and educational status and the problem of violence against women.

The two-day national workshop is headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, and organised jointly by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the National Committee for Women. It was designed as part of the various national and regional activities aimed at finalising Jordan's national plan of action which will culminate in a regional preparatory meeting for the conference.

Addressing more than 40 participants at Queen Zein Al Shara' Complex, Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and head of the preparatory committee Munther Masri explained that 10 committees would each submit recommendations that take into account the changes in women's status in Jordan between 1985 and the present day. These recommendations will be reviewed at this two-day workshop for inclusion in the national paper to be presented at the 1995 Beijing conference.

On legislation, Dr. Masri said there are two main problems that face Jordanian women: legislative text and the way it is implemented,



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma presides over the opening of a 2-day workshop to revise a draft paper to be presented at the 1995 Fourth World's Conference on Women. Also on the podium (right to left) are Senator Taher Hikmat, Minister of Social Development

ment Mohammad Sqour, Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Masri and ESCWA's chief of the Women and Development Section Fatima Shaity Qassem (Photo by Rana Hussein).

and gaps in the Jordanian law regarding women's status, which require amending. "But this procedure will take some time before it is completely accomplished," he added.

Violence against women was also noted as a major problem. Dr. Masri pointed out that Jordanian laws do not address family violence, particularly violence against women, a "weak point in our law," he added.

He also said that social and educational institutes to solve such problems are lacking in Jordan. As for education, women's literacy rate was increased 50 per cent, bringing the rate in 1992 to 75 per cent among women.

Women's participation in

the decision-making process was almost non-existent, the proof of which is in the negligible numbers of women in elected and appointed official positions.

According to Mr. Masri, unemployment and poverty were also hindering the progress of women in the nation.

Fatima Shaity Qassem, chief of ESCWA's Women and Development Section, said ESCWA's role is to provide technical assistance to its member states in the region in preparation for the Beijing conference.

She explained that pursuing a bottom-up approach, ESCWA will use the national reports and the national plans of action as inputs in formulating a regional platform of

action, to be submitted for finalisation at an expert group meeting.

The resulting document will be submitted to ESCWA member states for adoption at a ministerial meeting immediately following the expert group meeting. The expert group meeting on the regional plan of action for Arab women will be held in Amman November 8, to be followed by the Inter-governmental Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, November 9-10.

After adoption by member states, the Regional Platform of Action will be submitted to the secretary-general of the conference in New York, to be used as an input in the

formulation of a global platform of action.

The regional and global platforms of actions will be presented at the Beijing conference, and national reports will be presented by U.N. member states.

The Beijing conference will review and appraise the advancement of women since 1985 in light of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies and will adopt a platform for action focusing on removing obstacles to the advancement of women. Among the areas of concern to be addressed at the conference are: awareness-building, decision-making, literacy, poverty, health, work opportunities, violence, refugees and the effect of wars, environment, and use of media.

## World journalists organisation to convene meeting in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Journalists Organisation (IJO) will hold its 12th general conference in Amman early next year focusing on the work of media representatives in the region and elsewhere in the world.

The announcement was made by IJO chief Gerard Gatnot at a press conference held at Amra Hotel Wednesday during which he outlined the aims and the activities of the Prague-based organisation.

Jordan is the first Arab country to host an IJO conference. The venue was selected because of its proximity to Palestine where very important events are under way and because in Jordan the media is free respected and operating freely unlike other countries of the region, said Mr. Gatnot.

The IJO, founded in 1946, was set up to defend the freedom of the press and of journalists and to promote their material welfare, Mr. Gatnot said.

He said the IJO has been advocating the idea of settling issues through peaceful means and has also been helping journalists trying to secure freedom and independence for their countries such as Vietnam, Algeria, Haiti, Somalia and Palestine.

Referring to aid from the organisation to the Palestinians, Mr. Gatnot said that the IJO has donated \$90,000 to the Palestinian journalists to open press offices.

According to Mr. Gatnot the organisation which represents 300,000 journalists in 120 nations will discuss the struggle of Palestinian journalists and other topical issues at the coming conference.

He said the organisation has formed a panel to address abuses, including detentions and killings, as well as restrictions on freedom of expression in some countries.

Mr. Gatnot noted that the Amman meeting, to be attended by at least 200 journalists from around the world, would also discuss measures to safeguard journalists against adverse effects of prolonged use of computers and other professional equipment.

Speaking at the press conference was Suleiman Qudah, Jordan Press Association (JPA) president, who said that the meeting in Amman would provide a good opportunity for establishing stronger cooperation between the IJO and the JPA.

## No tax on computer parts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Customs Department has ruled that firms selling computers would not have to pay sales tax on parts brought into the country to upgrade computer programmes if they had already paid customs charges on the computers themselves.

The assistant director of the Customs Department, in a letter sent to the Jordan Computer Society (JCS), said that parts imported to upgrade computer programmes are not subject to the sales tax provided that these parts would not introduce a change in the character or operation of the computers.

The message said that such parts are not to be considered as components for the assembly of a new device, and as such, they are exempt from the sales tax under Article 3 of the Sales Tax Law.

Under the terms of Article 3, components imported for use in the assembly of a new device or material combined with others such as chemical substances to produce a new commodity are all subject to the Sales Tax Law.

The JCS had requested that firms trading in computers and parts needed to upgrade programmes, accelerators, hard disks or memory units be considered as business establishments and therefore be exempt from paying the seven per cent sales tax under Article 3 of the law because computer firms are not industrial companies producing or assembling any items.

## Writers society to debate issue of members meeting Israelis

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The controversy over the participation of a group of Jordanian women together with Israelis in a Mediterranean conference entitled "Mediterranean and European Women's Conference, Women and Peace" held in Morocco in May has prompted the Jordanian Writers Society (JWS) to call for an urgent general assembly meeting to resolve the issue of its members meeting Israeli counterparts.

The 350-member general assembly of the writers society is due to meet Friday to define its policy on the so-called issue of normalisation with Israel. The call for the meeting follows an uproar created by the attendance of Jordanian women at the Marrakesh conference.

Although the conference was attended by five Jordanian women including a senator, noted Jordanian writer Zuleikha Abu Rishah was singled out by fellow writers and colleagues at the JWS.

The JWS, of which Ms. Abu Rishah is a member, sent her a letter condemning her for attending the Marrakesh meeting and demanding that she apologise in writing.

The letter charged that Ms. Abu Rishah's participation in the conference

was in violation of the society's internal law which empowers the JWS administrative committee with the right to warn or dismiss any member who "damages the society's reputation."

The general assembly will ask its members on Friday to formulate their position on "any member who attends a conference with Israeli delegates on the issue of 'meeting with Israeli democratic elements that support Palestinians rights' on the JWS position 'on official and non-official invitation to Arab intellectuals who carry the Israeli citizenship,' on the JWS position against 'any member who communicates with Israeli media,' and the JWS position of any member who accepts an Israeli prize."

According to Mu'nes Razzaz, the JWS president, the July 8 meeting is "not a campaign against Ms. Abu Rishah, as much as a session to discuss similar cases and to tackle the issues with members and get their opinions on them."

"The society's policy is against any contact or any organising of contacts with Israeli intellectuals," he said.

The society in its warning letter condemned Ms. Abu Rishah for continuing to participate in the event after learning of the Israeli presence at the conference.

Ms. Abu Rishah said she

did not receive the letter, and only "heard about it from close friends."

"I have cleared my position and published an article (in the daily Akher Khabar) that explains my side of the story after learning of the conflict in some newspapers, which the JWS did not take into consideration," she said.

Ms. Abu Rishah told the Jordan Times that when she received the invitation to the conference in early May, she was not aware of an Israeli participation. She said she received an invitation by the facsimile that did not include a list of the participants, but only the topics to be reviewed at the conference.

"I was really shocked when I learned that an Israeli women's delegation was going to participate in the conference, and I thought of returning home without participating," she said.

After studying and thinking it over, Ms. Abu Rishah said, she decided to attend, bearing in mind that in the past many Arab and Jordanian groups participated in similar conferences.

"I thought it is not a shame any more to meet with our enemy, on the contrary, meeting became a necessity to meet rather than being afraid of them," Ms. Abu Rishah added.

More than 200 Arab, European, Turkish and



Zuleikha Abu Rishah

Israeli women gathered in Marrakesh to attend the conference in May. It was the first ever large scale Arab-Israeli encounter outside the framework of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The meeting was designed to discuss women's legal rights as well as social, political and economic conditions in which they exist.

Jordan sent no official delegation, but was represented by Senator Naela Rashdan, former head of the Jordanian Women's Federation Hafsa Bashir, head of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) Jacqueline Fakhouri, journalist Mariam Shahin, and Ms. Abu Rishah.

The Israeli delegation was led by Minister of Communication and leader of Meretz Party Shalomit

Aloni. It included Knesset members belonging to both the Meretz and Labour parties and a group of peace activists and journalists.

Ms. Abu Rishah said the controversy was created by "some individuals who used this event for revenge and to slander my reputation." She would not elaborate.

She said she attended the conference as a feminist, not as a JWS member.

She added that her meeting with Israelis was not the first of its kind, others have met Israelis as well.

Jordanian and Arab writers have been waging campaigns against some Arab poets and writers since the Madrid conference of October 1991 and more recently the signing of the Oslo accord in September 1993. Many writers have been warning of the dangers of normalisation on Arab culture and calling on the public to fight it.

For the writers who oppose the idea, normalisation with an enemy has become a key word to differentiate between a patriot and a traitor.

On the other hand, other writers in support, do not consider normalisation as the real threat. They cite the modification of Jordanian school curricula that formal peace is widely expected to introduce into the Arab countries' pedagogic systems.

Recently, a prominent Arab writer and poet, Ali Ahmad Sa'eed, Adonis, was also accused of promoting normalisation thinking and of opening channels of dialogue with Israeli intellectuals.

Mr. Adonis was attacked by President of the General Union of Arab Writers (GUAW) Fakhri Kawar, a former Jordanian deputy, who waged a campaign against the poet's participation at the Jerash Festival following Mr. Adonis' meeting with the Israeli intellectuals last year in Spain.

In a statement issued recently by the GUAW, Mr. Kawar called on the organisers of the Jerash Festival to reverse its decisions to invite Mr. Adonis.

"These acts are in contradiction with Arab writers' efforts to combat cultural normalisation with the enemy," the statement said.

However, the Jerash Festival panel on Saturday strongly rejected the boycott call.

"The festival will be open to all Arab artists, regardless of their politics," announced Akram Masarweh, the festival press director.

"The Jerash Festival is an open and democratic arena where artists are chosen to perform, as was the case with Mr. Adonis, not for his political views, but for his artistic merits."

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Field trip to Mafrak (including Al Fedain, Rihab, Sa'ad, Nadera, Al Medwar, and Khatalah) organised by the Friends of Archaeology Society. Departure will be by bus from the Amra Hotel parking lot on Friday at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Spanish film entitled "El Viaje A Ninguna Parte" at the Spanish Cultural Centre on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. (Tel. 613077).
- ★ Film entitled "Stagecoach" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. (99 minutes).
- ★ Video film in English on the National Gallery of Art in Washington (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khaled Khreisha) at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "In the Absence of the Arab Strategic Mind: What to Do?" by Dr. Mohammad Abdul Fadil at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

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## Haiti-U.S. tensions rise amid swelling refugee tide

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Tensions between Haiti's army-backed government and the United States began to rise as a mounting tide of refugees and U.S. efforts to handle them increased pressure for a speedy end to the crisis.

The U.S. government said it was sending 2,000 Marines to the waters off Haiti to bolster an embargo against the Caribbean nation's military rulers.

Washington also announced that Haitians fleeing their country by boat would no longer be eligible for resettlement in the United States following a record flood of 3,245 asylum seekers picked up by U.S. ships Monday.

On Tuesday, a staggering 1,700 more boat people were rescued at sea, according to a preliminary count by the Coast Guard. "The people doing that (compiling today's data) are overwhelmed right now," a Coast Guard spokesman said.

U.S. officials in Port-Au-Prince said Tuesday afternoon they were already developing Creole-language radio spots to let Haitians across the country know about the policy change, intended to discourage people from taking to the seas.

The U.S. Coast Guard said 11,627 refugees have been picked up since June 16, when the Clinton administration agreed to hold political asylum interviews with each migrant. Haitian boat people previously had been repatriated without hearings.

"We are pretty much taxed to capacity," said Stanley Schrager, the U.S. embassy spokesman in Haiti. A maximum of 10,250 Haitians can currently be dealt with at any one time, he said.

With President Bill Clinton piling on economic sanctions in a bid to force Haiti's army leaders to resign, the exodus has further increased tensions with Haiti's de facto government.

U.S. officials announced late Monday that 2,000 U.S. Marines based in Norfolk, Virginia, would arrive off the Haitian coast later this week to boost enforcement of the U.N.-imposed worldwide trade embargo against Haiti.

Mr. Schrager said Tuesday that the Marines "could come to the assistance of American citizens if necessary. It is a precautionary measure."

The United States already has six frigates and two coastal patrol boats enforcing the embargo.

Mr. Clinton has refused to rule out military force against Haiti's army. And the military-installed government accused Washington late Monday of organising and financing the exodus of refugees as a pretext for a military invasion.

It said the United States was even kidnapping Haitian fishermen and presenting them to the media as boat people to bolster the numbers.

Mr. Schrager denied the charge. "I think that's ridiculous. The de facto government is understandably embarrassed by the number of people trying to leave the country," he said.

Washington's so-called treaty of interdiction with Haiti expires in October, and exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in a bloody military coup 33 months ago, is thought unlikely to renew the treaty unless he has been returned to power.

He needs U.S. support if he is ever to return to Haiti but Mr. Aristide has been a harsh critic of Washington's immigration policy toward Haitians. His prime minister, Robert Malval, said the United States would not be able to persuade Mr. Aristide to back down on interdiction.

"Aristide will not give in. He has no interest in giving in on this front," Mr. Malval said in an interview last week. "There will be boatloads of refugees taking to

the seas."

More than 50,000 Haitians, most of them crammed onto flimsy and overloaded boats, have fled their homeland since Mr. Aristide was overthrown.

It was not immediately clear Tuesday how the Haitian people would react to the news that only Haitians applying for asylum at three processing centres in their homeland would be eligible for resettlement in the United States.

To handle the refugees, the U.S. government said Tuesday it would establish "safe havens" for them in a number of Caribbean nations. Panama has agreed to accept 10,000, and a processing centre aboard a U.S. Navy vessel has been operating in Jamaican waters since June 16.

U.S. officials said the exodus was straining the facilities for political asylum hearings on ships docked near Jamaica and at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

At the annual Caribbean Community (CARICOM) economic summit being held in Barbados this week, officials from member nations said Tuesday that more Caribbean countries were prepared to create "safe havens" similar to those being discussed by Dominica and Antigua.

Meanwhile, the residents of the coastal town of St. Marc Tuesday mourned the deaths of some 150 people who drowned as they tried to flee Haiti to seek asylum and a better life in the United States.

Survivors of the mass drowning and relatives of those who were killed tried to come to terms with the tragedy while the corpses of almost all the dead remained floating at sea or trapped in the shell of the boat that overturned off Haiti's western coast before dawn Monday.



Crewmen from a U.S. Coast Guard cutter attempt to rescue three Haitian refugees and an overboard crewmate after a 40-foot boat containing more than two hundred refugees capsized off the coast of Haiti (AFP photo)

## Shanghai to set up nerve centre for disasters

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Shanghai is installing a new emergency telecom system which will allow the authorities greater control in dealing with natural and industrial disasters, according to some experts, workers unrest.

Press reports said Wednesday that the 800 MHz wireless telephone and paging system would be located in the government's Shanghai Emergency Communications Office atop the new 20-storey town hall, currently under construction.

The hall will be completed in October, but the reports quoted city officials as saying the system will go into operation next March.

Equipment for the emergency system, established at the suggestion of the State Council in 1992, was purchased from U.S. electronics giant Motorola, which has a substantial manufacturing presence in Shanghai.

The 800-MHz frequency has traditionally been used by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA).

The new system will be controlled solely by the city government, which has also purchased several vans installed with satellite receiving facilities and microwave telecommunications system.

Local government officials have recently voiced doubts about the ability of the city's archaic telephone system to cope with a time of crisis, citing the 1983 earthquake in the Yellow Sea as an example of panic-stricken residents flooding the system with calls and rendering it virtually useless.

According to the press reports, the municipal authorities are also worried about large-scale industrial accidents, especially in the growing chemicals industry.

Shanghai is China's largest industrial centre with more than 15,500 factories using tonnes of toxic and hazardous chemicals, many of which are transported across the city's Huangpu River.

## U.K. lists acceptable EU candidates

LONDON (AFP) — Britain has drawn up a list of acceptable possible candidates for the European Commission presidency, reinforcing optimism of a swift end to the dispute over a successor to Jacques Delors, press reports said Wednesday.

British ministers indicated that the names on a draft list of contenders, drawn up in Whitehall but representing the ruling Conservative government's understanding of the position of other European Union (EU) member states, are all broadly acceptable to London, according to reports in the Financial Times and the Independent.

The papers said the names had been canvassed during intense consultations among EU governments after British Prime Minister John Major caused deadlock at the EU summit in Corfu last month by vetoing his Belgian counterpart Jean-Luc Dehaene.

A Downing Street spokesman late Tuesday refused to confirm or deny that the government had drawn up the list.

"There is going to be full consultation with all the member states. We are not

discussing which names are acceptable at this stage," he said.

Among the reported fresh contenders for the European Commission presidency are former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, and Spanish Finance Minister Pedro Solbes.

But former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato apparently remains the choice in London, the reports said.

Britain would also be happy with Mr. Ellemann-Jensen or Mr. Solbes, and Mr. Major was said to have no "overwhelming objection" to the other candidates being mentioned.

They are outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, who failed to muster enough votes at the Corfu summit, Dutch Commissioner in Brussels for External Political Affairs Hans Van Den Broek, Renato Ruggiero, at present Italy's candidate to head the World Trade Organisation, and former Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter.

British ministers have reportedly acknowledged the list is not final. But comments by Chancellor

Helmut Kohl of Germany Tuesday that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez had ruled himself out of the race strengthened the view in London the successful candidate most probably will be drawn from the names now circulating.

As president of the EU council, Mr. Kohl is preparing the ground for a decision at or before a special Brussels summit on July 15 which was called to settle the question.

Britain is reported to be unwilling to give public support to any individual candidate for fear of a backlash from other EU governments.

Mr. Major vetoed Mr. Dehaene because of his Eurocentric views, as well as out of annoyance at the attempt by France and Germany to sew up the choice and for internal political reasons.

The Financial Times said it also became clear Tuesday that Mr. Major appeared willing to risk the anger of so-called Eurosceptics in his ruling Conservative Party by nominating former Labour leader Neil Kinnock as Britain's second commissioner in Brussels from January.

## Zhirinovskiy causes upset at CSCE meeting

VIENNA (AFP) — Russian ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy drew protests over his expansionist views by declaring at a meeting of European deputies that a newly-fortified Russia would win a future world war.

"I warn you: On the ruins of the Soviet Union a new and strong Russia has been born," he said, speaking at the annual parliamentary assembly of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"Russia will win firm and definitive victory in the third world war," he added.

The comments by the leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party brought protests from delegates, who banged on the tables to try to drown Mr. Zhirinovskiy out.

In a speech on the fringe of the conference earlier in the day he also warned the international community against tampering in the affairs of former Soviet states in the Caucasus region, saying they were Russia's concern.

He referred to the Caucasus as a region "where there are no defined borders and where everything remains open... these questions are the exclusive concerns of Russia," he said.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy also called for a new division of Europe, reversing its unification since the end of the cold war.

"We need polarity and competition," he said, adding that the division "should not be between the West and the East but between the North and the South."

In other comments, Mr. Zhirinovskiy also opposed holding a debate on the situation in ex-Yugoslavia, beyond saying that Turkey should not be involved in Bosnia, which was "a Christian country."

A spokesman for the Austrian Interior Ministry said Mr. Zhirinovskiy was not wanted in Austria, adding that any request for his visa to be extended beyond July 10 would be refused.

"The presence of Mr. Zhirinovskiy is not desired, and if he asks his visa to be extended beyond July 10 we will not grant it to him," the spokesman said. Mr. Zhirinovskiy visited Austria for a private visit last December.

The visiting leader is attending as a member of the Russian delegation to the conference, which opened Tuesday. The conference is scheduled to continue until Friday.

## Republic issue disrupts Australia opposition unity

SYDNEY (AFP) — The newfound unity of Australia's conservative — and supposedly monarchist — opposition was looking decidedly shaky Wednesday following disclosures about the strength of its closest republican movement.

Fighting has broken out between senior opposition loyalists and republicans who, according to press reports, may number far more than was previously thought — to the embarrassment of party chieftains.

Until this week, the new and increasingly popular opposition leader Alexander Downer had been trying to smear the push towards a republic as being Labour-driven, accusing Prime Minister Paul Keating of trying to destroy the constitution.

The unity which returned to the conservative coalition of Liberal and National Par-

ties after Mr. Downer's successful leadership bid in May is seen as a major factor in giving it a big lead over the government in recent polls.

But efforts by Mr. Downer to stop squabbling which erupted in the Liberal Party this week have so far failed, though he dismissed talk Wednesday of a split, saying there had always been "a diversity of views" in his party.

While coalition chiefs were reaffirming the anti-republican stance in Canberra Tuesday, prominent Liberal colleagues elsewhere were emerging from the closet to identify themselves as republican sympathisers.

Three of five Liberal state premiers — in New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania — have identified themselves either as republicans or committed to the view a republic is inevitable.

## Andreotti denies new charge of mafia membership

ROME (AFP) — Former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti Wednesday denied new accusations that he was a bona fide member of the mafia rather than simply linked to the Sicilian Cosa Nostra clan.

"I have been waiting for a year and a half for evidence to be brought up against me and there still is nothing," Mr. Andreotti said in an interview with the Rome daily La Repubblica.

"But I shall just have to wait, as I know that there is nothing and never will be."

On Tuesday a public prosecutor in Palermo, Sicily's main city, for the first time accused seven-time premier Andreotti of membership of the Cosa Nostra.

To date he has only been suspected of collaborating with organised crime.

## Clinton confident Russia to withdraw from Baltics

RIGA (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton said Wednesday he was confident that the Russian troop withdrawal from the Baltic countries would proceed on schedule.

Mr. Clinton, who arrived in Riga in the morning, said he thought Russian President Boris Yeltsin sincerely wanted to withdraw the remaining troops from Latvia and Estonia. "He certainly clearly wants to complete the troop withdrawal," he said during the signing of a trade agreement with Latvia.

The U.S. president, who came here to underscore his support for the independence of the Baltic states, continued: "I think it (the withdrawal) will proceed apace. I feel good about where we are right now. I think we're making good progress toward completing the troop withdrawals on schedule."

Moscow has withdrawn from Lithuania forces left behind by the collapse of Soviet power and has said it will pull out of Latvia by Aug. 31, but has not reached agreement with Estonia.

But on Tuesday, Mr. Yeltsin made clear in a telephone

conversation with Mr. Clinton that final agreement on the withdrawal of former Soviet forces from Latvia and Estonia would depend on the treatment of large Russian minorities in the two countries.

Moscow says a citizenship law passed by the Latvian parliament discriminates against the Russian minority. A statement issued by Mr. Yeltsin's office Wednesday said he informed President Bill Clinton of the position in a telephone conversation Tuesday.

Mr. Yeltsin told Mr. Clinton that a timetable for the final troop withdrawals, could be drawn up as soon as "discriminatory acts" against Russian speaking minorities were stopped.

Mr. Yeltsin said he was certain Mr. Clinton will raise the problem of anti-Russian discrimination during a visit to Latvia Wednesday.

Mr. Clinton was quoted as telling Mr. Yeltsin that the issue would "receive the attention it merits."

The U.S. president arrived in Latvian capital Riga Wednesday morning, for the first ever visit to the Baltic

state by a U.S. head of state. Moscow and Riga agreed in April that the last Russian troops would leave Latvia by the end of August. But negotiations with Tallinn (Estonia) are currently deadlocked.

Last month the Latvian parliament voted to severely restrict foreigners' eligibility for Latvian citizenship. Russian speakers were by far the biggest group affected by the law.

Following criticism by many international organisations, including the European Union, the Council of Europe and the European Conference on Security and Cooperation, Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis has referred the law back to parliament.

President Clinton pledged Wednesday to give \$4 million to Latvia to help defray costs of dismantling a former Soviet early-warning radar station at Skrunda, the White House said.

Mr. Clinton told Mr. Ulmanis, that the funds would be forthcoming in line with an earlier request from Latvian officials for assistance in dismantling the site.

The facility at Skrunda, part of the former Soviet army's air defence system, consists of two early-warning radars built in the 1960s as well as an unfinished larger radar site begun in 1986.

The status of the site was a matter of dispute between Riga and Moscow prior to the signing of the accord on Russian troop withdrawals from Latvia.

Under that agreement, the two early-warning radars were to remain under Russian civilian control until 1998 to allow Russia time to replace them with alternative facilities in Russia.

The larger phased-array site, an 18-story structure dominating the skyline near Skrunda, has already been reverted to Latvian control.

President Clinton's third trip to Europe this year finds him striving to boost his image at home and abroad as he tries to prove his leadership skills.

Eighteen months after taking office, Mr. Clinton faces a critical juncture in his presidency. His diplomatic missteps have raised doubts around the world and key components of his domestic

agenda, particularly health care reform, are being buffeted in Congress.

"We could use a win," acknowledged an administration official in discussing the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, which starts on July 8 in Naples.

Prior to his departure for Europe late Tuesday, Mr. Clinton said he would tell America's partners they must do more to encourage global economic growth.

He also told U.S. business and labour leaders and members of the diplomatic corps his trip would help to "create jobs in a world of prosperity."

Mr. Clinton will arrive in Italy after visits to former cold war battlefields Latvia and Poland. He goes on to Germany after the summit, and winds up his third trip to Europe this year with a visit to Berlin.

His week-long trip, which includes a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Naples, is designed largely to show U.S. support for an integrated post-Soviet Europe.

## 'Saleswoman too smelly to sell perfume' — judge

TORONTO (AP) — A judge upheld the firing of a Calvin Klein fragrance demonstrator dismissed by her former bosses because they believed her body odor made her a poor perfume saleswoman. Sharon Bagnall was fired by Calvin Klein Canada in 1991 for what the company termed a "serious personal hygiene problem" and for allegedly disruptive behaviour at odds with the cosmetic giant's image.

Ms. Bagnall, 52, fought back with a \$150,000 lawsuit alleging she was wrongfully dismissed. Witnesses testified at her trial that she was always impeccably groomed, didn't smell and acted professionally on the job. But in a decision released Monday, Justice Lee Ferrier of Ontario Court's General Division said he believed Calvin Klein witnesses who testified she smelled like an armpit. "I'm stunned," Ms. Bagnall said.

"I felt like I died all over again. I had to get out and go for a walk because I couldn't breathe. I only did this for justice, not money, and I only told the truth. I don't have a job. I haven't had work for a long time and I don't have a bank account. I don't have anything," Judge Ferrier awarded Ms. Bagnall \$5,028 in additional severance pay, but denied any other claims against Calvin Klein, saying the company gave her several chances to clean up her act and didn't fire her just to be mean. "It is my finding that, on occasion (Bagnall's) clothing had a stale odor of underarm respiration," Judge Ferrier wrote in his ruling. "It was by no means a daily occurrence, but it did occur..." Ms. Bagnall had worked as a fragrance demonstrator for 18 months at Calvin Klein counters at Toronto department stores before she was fired.

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## Bosnian peace plan gets muted response

SARAJEVO (R) — Serbs and Muslims blamed each other for fighting in Bosnia Wednesday while international mediators presented the rival factions with a new plan intended to end more than two years of war.

Bosnia's Muslim prime minister, Haris Silajdzic, said the peace plan put forward in Geneva by officials of the five-nation "contact group" had serious deficiencies but he declined to say whether his government would accept or reject it.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was quoted as saying his side would consider the proposal and come up with "a clear-cut stance."

Mr. Silajdzic said a peace map which divides Bosnia roughly in half between the Muslim-Croat federation and the Bosnian Serbs, would be debated by the Bosnian parliament in Sarajevo and the reply given in two weeks, the deadline set by the mediators.

"I am not able to discuss the map now. We will discuss it back in Bosnia," Mr. Silajdzic said in Geneva.

"But I must say — and we said this to the contact group — the solution especially in eastern Bosnia has serious deficiencies and some genocide areas like Prijedor are going to be controlled by those who committed those crimes."

Mr. Silajdzic was referring to the Serbs, who have already indicated that they do not like the look of the map, which awards them 49 per cent of Bosnia — they now hold 70 per cent — and gives 51 per cent to the Muslim-Croat alliance.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told envoys from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Tuesday that his Muslim-led government would not flatly reject the peace map.

"Our answer will not be some radical no... We believe it wouldn't be wise to reject the plan fully. In other words we believe that peace negotiations should continue," one diplomat quoted him as saying.

Mr. Karadzic told Serb journalists in Geneva Tuesday that the map appeared to be "impossible to accept."

But on Wednesday, he told the Bosnian Serb News Agency that "the Serb side would use the two-week period to consider all implications of what's been offered and

adopt a clear-cut stance on it."

Mr. Karadzic, however, criticised the peace plan as an "American dictate."

He added: "It seems as if the four other mediators have built none of their suggestions into this American-sponsored plan."

Mr. Karadzic dismissed a threat contained in the plan for the gradual lifting of the arms embargo against the Muslims should the Serbs reject the plan.

"This is not a serious threat because the embargo does not exist," he said. "The Muslims are getting weapons," he added.

The peace plan has been endorsed by the foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, Germany, France and Britain.

They have told the Serbs that if they do not accept the plan, the arms embargo against Belgrade will be eased.

Diplomats said Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev would travel to Belgrade later Wednesday for talks with Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic, the Bosnian Serbs' long-time backer.

As the map was being unveiled in Geneva, Serb and Muslim media accused each other's armies of carrying on the fighting on several battlefronts across Bosnia, despite a ceasefire supposed to have been in effect for the past month.

The United Nations, however, reported a relatively low level of military activity, with less shell and mortar fire than previously in north-central Bosnia, which has seen most of the fighting in recent weeks.

"Low levels of activity were reported around Maglaj and Zavidovici, where the fronts seem to be stable," said U.N. military spokesman Commander Eric Chaperon in Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serbs have counter-attacked in this area, apparently stopping a Muslim offensive intended to take control of an important supply route.

The United Nations also reported continued, low-level conflict in the northwestern Bihać enclave, where rebel Muslims have turned against forces loyal to the Sarajevo government.

Maj. Chaperon said it was estimated that at least 250 people had been killed in this inter-Muslim fighting since June 10.

## Mandela draws leaders together on Angola peace

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela embarks Thursday on his first major peace mission since taking office, bringing together southern African leaders in a bid to help end Angola's civil war.

Foreign Ministry officials said Mr. Mandela would be joined in the Pretoria talks by the presidents of Angola, Mozambique and Zaire.

Angola said Zaire's support for Jonas Savimbi's UNITA rebels would dominate the talks.

UNITA, which has waged war against the Luanda government for nearly 20 years, would not take part in the discussions, the Foreign Ministry said.

The Angolan government says most arms bought by UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) come across the 1,200 kilometres northern border with Zaire.

Speaking after talks with Zambian President Frederick Chiluba in Luanda Tuesday, Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos told reporters Luanda had clear ideas about what it wanted from the Pretoria talks.

Mr. Dos Santos said Zaire's military and logistical support for UNITA would dominate the discussions, which follow a request by U.N. mediator Alouine Blondin Beye for Mr. Mandela to help settle a war in which many thousands of people have died.

"President Mandela has been asked to try to overcome the deadlock in Angola," a Foreign Ministry official said.

"We are not going to meddle in other countries' affairs, we are trying to facilitate discussions... principally between the Angolans and the Zaireans," he said.

Mr. Dos Santos told the Angolan News Agency, Angop, the talks would be "dominated and controlled

by the South Africans."

Relations between Angola's former Marxist government and Zaire have been strained for years because of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko's backing for UNITA and Mr. Savimbi.

Maputo newspapers said Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano had been asked by Mr. Mandela to take part in the discussions because of his long experience in constructive diplomacy.

Mr. Chissano was Mozambique's foreign minister until becoming president in 1986 and later set up talks with Mozambique's RENAMO rebel movement that culminated in the October 1992 Rome peace treaty that ended 16 years of civil war in his country.

The Mozambican president's ruling Frelimo Party was a close ally of Mr. Dos Santos's MPLA movement during the liberation wars against Portugal in the 1960s and 1970s.

Political analysts said Mr. Chissano, an old friend of Mr. Mobutu, was well-placed to use "gentle persuasion" on the Zaireans to end their backing for UNITA.

The United Nations' Beye said after talks with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe last week that drawn-out peace talks under way in the Zambian capital Lusaka since November were slowly making progress.

The main unresolved issue in the Lusaka talks is UNITA's insistence on controlling the governorship of Huambo province, the movement's stronghold in central Angola, in a power-sharing deal.

"We hope to achieve a ceasefire in the near future," said Mr. Beye. UNITA's military commanders have warned the movement's political leaders not to sign any agreement with the Luanda government without their approval.



A French legionnaire with an AAS2 machine gun monitors the front, facing Rwandan Patriotic Front forces near Gikongoro in southern Rwanda where the French are trying to impose a so-called "humanitarian security zone" (AFP photo)

## Belgian minister slams French mission in Rwanda

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgian Defence Minister Leo Delcroix Wednesday sharply attacked France's Operation Turquoise in Rwanda, saying French troops had overstepped their mission to shelter refugees from the central African country's ethnic slaughter.

Mr. Delcroix also said Belgium, the former colonial power in Rwanda, had decided to suspend indefinitely its offer to send in some 50 army medics.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. Delcroix said: "French soldiers are becoming more and more involved in the country's internal affairs."

"The affair is becoming too political and delicate. We are increasingly reticent about intervening."

The minister said Belgium had initially backed the French plan, which was endorsed by the United Nations, to send in up to 2,500 men to create safe havens for civilians fleeing fighting between the mainly Hutu majority government and

minority Tutsis.

But Mr. Delcroix said his government changed its tune after incidents last weekend between the French troops and members of the Tutsi-led rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which now is in control of two-thirds of the country, including the capital, Kigali.

France said Wednesday that it would support a national unity government in Rwanda based on the 1993 Arusha accord, but added that those responsible for the recent massacres in the central African state must be excluded.

With the fall of Kigali to the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) "it seems that the path to a political accord is more open," Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque said.

"We must then speed up this process which, in line with the Arusha accord, should be founded on power sharing in Rwanda while obviously excluding those responsible for the massacres," he said.

## Rwanda rebels prepare government RPF holds off from confrontation with French

KIGALI (AFP) — The Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front consolidated its hold Wednesday on two thirds of Rwanda, holding off from confrontation with French forces in the southwest and preparing to form a government of national unity.

Belgium, Rwanda's former colonial power, said Wednesday it was ready to talk to a government led by Faustin Twagiramungu, the moderate Hutu designated as prime minister under the Arusha peace accord reached last year.

Mr. Twagiramungu was chosen by the RPF and the late Hutu President Juvénal Habyarimana last year as the premier of a transitional government for Rwanda bringing an end to three years of civil war.

"We recognise states and not governments, but if the government is formed we are ready to talk to it," the Belgian Foreign Ministry said.

In Kigali, RPF troops continued to patrol through the town, stopping independent witnesses from entering the town centre where they claimed to have discovered mass graves which they were cleaning up.

The RPF commander in Kigali, Colonel Sam Kaka, said Monday troops held "many prisoners," both government soldiers and troops of the Hutu militias set up by Mr. Habyarimana in 1990.

RPF Commander General Paul Kagame said Tuesday journalists will be allowed to see the prisoners.

Gen. Kagame said the RPF was going to announce the formation of a "broad-based national unity government" in "the next few days."

The government will be "open to all Rwandans who have not taken part in the massacres," he said adding that the RPF intends to "share power with the political forces not responsible for the genocide."

"We can unite the country behind the RPF, using better methods than those who broke it up."

The Ugandan-trained rebel leader added that after it had consolidated its recent conquests, the RPF would proclaim a ceasefire.

"We do not want to take

the whole of the country and do not need to. Since we captured Kigali, the others are the rebels," he said.

Gen. Kagame said he hoped that in the next few weeks, he would be able to form a national army including officers from the Hutu-led government forces who were not directly implicated in the Rwandan massacres.

The rebel leader said he was ready to discuss the setting up of safe zones in Rwanda for civilians but remained hostile to French attempts to set up its own safe zone in the southwest of the country.

Hundreds of French troops were positioned Wednesday, armed with heavy machineguns, at easily defensible spots on the edge of the "safety zone" declared by Paris as RPF troops halted their advance only a few kilometres away.

"If we are attacked we will respond in legitimate defence, but we will not start a battle," said Colonel Jacques Rozier, commander of a unit of some 150 elite commandos.

But he replied with a curt "no" when asked if his troops would allow the RPF to continue its drive west into the zone and towards the border with Zaire 120

kilometres (75 miles) away.

The zones should not be used to shelter civilian or military killers," Gen. Kagame said Tuesday, reiterating the RPF's right to pursue those responsible for the massacres which have killed up to 500,000 people, according to aid agencies.

Meanwhile, French Defence Minister François Léotard called Wednesday on "European, Western and of course African contingents" to replace French troops in Rwanda "by the end of July."

Mr. Léotard said he "hoped that at the end of July, there will already be significant units to reinforce the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda with European, Western and of course African contingents."

The French minister also criticised the "irresponsible" remarks of former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing who, speaking on French television Tuesday, slammed the French operation in Rwanda.

France was now opposing the Tutsis, "the victims" of the recent massacres in Rwanda, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said, while some of those it was protecting were "those who had committed the massacres."

The commander of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Rwanda arrived in Zaire Wednesday for talks with his French opposite number and the head of the beleaguered Rwandan government army.

Major-General Romeo Dallaire, commander of the Kigali-based U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), said he would talk with the chief of France's Operation Turquoise, Brigadier-General Jean-Claude Lafourcade, at his base in Goma in eastern Zaire.

The Canadian commander then planned to cross the border to the neighbouring western Rwandan town of Gisenyi for a meeting with Major-General Augustine Bizimungu, the Rwandan army chief of staff.

He declined to comment on the aim of his mission following important victories in the capital Kigali and the south by the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) in its three-month war with government forces.

France is pressing for UNAMIR to be reinforced from 450 to 5,500 troops, as authorised by the U.N. Security Council in May, so it can take over from French forces.



Among drying clothes and cover sheets two sad-looking children refugees wander around the yard of the Tanzanian embassy in Kigali after the city was seized by the Tutsi minority rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (AFP photo)

## Gorbachev might run for president in '96

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday he will re-enter politics and might run for Russian president in the next election in June 1996.

Mr. Gorbachev, 63, withdrew from politics after the collapse of the Soviet state and up to now had not only ruled out running in the next presidential race but spurned any return to the political arena in post-communist Russia.

But in a three-hour interview with journalists at the headquarters of his foundation here, he said that at some point in the future, he would announce his final decision on whether to enter the presidential race.

"I will participate in the elections when I am sure that the country really needs me," he told reporters.

"I am not afraid of the election campaign. I see people are starting to ask for me," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev, who was awarded the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for the reforms he introduced into the Soviet system, said the current regime of President Boris Yeltsin "needs a powerful democratic alternative."

"I am ready to participate in this sort of political movement, even without holding the top post in it," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev acknowledged Wednesday, apparently for the first time publicly, that he personally ordered tanks into the Azeri capital, Baku, in an 1990 action that cost nearly 150 lives.

Gorbachev has never

openly accepted direct responsibility for the army's use of force in a series of actions in Baku, the Georgian capital Tbilisi in 1989 and the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, in 1991.

Hardline officers involved in the actions, most now retired, have accused the former president of evading responsibility.

But in an interview published by Nezavisimaya Gazeta daily newspaper the Nobel Peace Prize winner said:

"For me, it was the worst moment. In fact, I took such a decision (to send in troops) only once, in Baku."

Nearly 150 people died when Soviet tanks rolled into Baku. The initial explanation was to stop attacks on local Armenians.

## U.S. mulls closer ties with Taiwan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States is close to making changes in its relations with Taiwan to allow easier contacts between government officials from both countries, administration officials told the Los Angeles Times.

In its Wednesday edition, the newspaper said that the changes would give the government of Taiwan greater leeway in dealing with the United States than it has had in 15 years.

The review awaits final approval from President Bill Clinton and could be announced in the next couple of weeks, the Times said.

Among the changes under consideration are:

— Allowing American cabinet officials to visit Taiwan and Taiwan cabinet members to visit the United States.

— Permitting Taiwan's offices in the United States to use a readily-identifiable name such as the "Taipei Representative Office" instead of the current "Coordination Council for North American Affairs."

— Allowing Taiwan officials to meet with their U.S. counterparts inside U.S. government buildings instead of hotels and restaurants as is the case at present.

With a few exceptions, cabinet-level visits between the two governments have been forbidden for the last 15 years on the grounds that they could be interpreted as U.S. recognition of Taiwan.

The United States agreed through President Richard Nixon in 1972 not to challenge the idea that nationalist

and capitalist Taiwan was part of China. Seven years after that, President Jimmy Carter formally broke off ties with Taiwan and established diplomatic relations with China.

"There is still some concern here about how the Chinese will react," one U.S. official told the Times.

"They're not happy with what they've heard. Sino-U.S. ties have only just avoided two major confrontations over linking trade privileges to China's human rights record and over how to deal with North Korea's nuclear programme."

Any move to improve ties with Taiwan would almost certainly bring an adverse reaction from Beijing which is traditionally highly sensitive to the issue.

## Cambodian deputy minister, top officials arrested in coup plot

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — The Cambodian authorities arrested a powerful minister and other senior security officials Wednesday following on emergency meeting to probe the involvement of government members in a weekend abortive coup.

The secretary of state for the interior, Sin Sen, was arrested following a security meeting at the council of ministers, hosted by co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen.

The meeting was also attended by the ministers of defence and the interior, as well as top army and police officials.

Mr. Sin Sen — who Hun Sen earlier said had not been involved in the coup attempt — was prompted from under-secretary to secretary of state for the interior Monday.

Military police who searched his house said they had found a large quantity of weapons.

The city's airport was closed for about an hour Wednesday morning, reportedly because Mr. Sin Sen was scheduled to leave for a private holiday in Malaysia with some police officials. Military police also sur-

rounded the house of Colonel Sar Moline, a close associate of former Interior Minister Sin Song, who is being detained for allegedly leading the coup attempt with Prince Norodom Chakrapong.

Though Sar Moline was believed to be in Hong Kong, military police told AFP they had a warrant to search for weapons and other evidence relating to the coup.

Security officials said they had also arrested Tes Choy, head of the Police Department of Defence, Interior Minister You Hockry was quoted by the Cambodia Daily newspaper Wednesday as saying that two top Interior Ministry officials, Sok Chamran and Chin Sarann, who were also suspected of involvement, could not be located.

Secretary of State for Defence Chay Sang Yung, also allegedly involved in the coup, had fled to Vietnam, Prince Ranariddh said Tuesday.

A senior police official told AFP that several high-ranking military officers were also believed to have fled to Vietnam.

More arrests were expected Wednesday night, the police officer said, while the United Nations advised its

aid officials in the city to stay home after dark.

Former Interior Minister Sin Song, currently under arrest, was being questioned about other possible accomplices, a senior security official said.

The official said high-ranking government and military officials had supported the coup attempt but switched sides when they realised the government had advance warning and that government forces had intercepted some 200 rebel troops.

The troops had been travelling in a convoy of 12 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and five trucks late Saturday as they advanced on the capital.

"You must realise that Sin Song has no real power, so how can he get all those soldiers and APCs to come to Phnom Penh?" the official asked.

He added: "There must have been involvement from other government members."

Prince Chakrapong was allowed to leave Cambodia for Malaysia Sunday following the intervention of his father King Norodom Siha-

nouk and has since denied involvement in the coup.

In his first official contact with the Malaysian government after three days in hiding in the country, denying that he led the coup attempt and asking to be allowed to remain in Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur said it would seek confirmation of the prince's denial with the Cambodian government and King Sihanouk before deciding on the next course of action.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh has announced the creation of a special committee headed by the Ministry of Justice to investigate the coup.

Meanwhile, Cambodia's parliament Wednesday overwhelmingly agreed to outlaw the Khmer Rouge guerrillas but the government kept open the door for future peace negotiations with the insurgents.

Parliamentarians voted 98 out of 99 to support the key first article of a bill banning the rebels, paving the way for the passage of the full legislation later Wednesday.

Article one of the eight-article bill said: "The National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia (1) outlaws the

"Democratic Kampuchea" group and its armed forces."

The Phnom Penh government set in train the move to outlaw the Khmer Rouge, who are still fighting a low-level guerrilla war, after the breakdown of peace talks last month.

But Prince Ranariddh said the ban on the faction did not rule out future talks and he reaffirmed his support for human rights safeguards in the controversial bill.

"The law cannot be used against the common people on the one hand and on the other hand I think we should do something in order to keep the door open (for the Khmer Rouge)," he said.

The Khmer Rouge guerrillas are responsible for the deaths of one million Cambodians during 1970s "killing fields" reign of terror, which came to an end in 1978.

Though it was part of the 1991 U.N.-brokered peace accord, the faction boycotted May 1993 elections and this year stepped up its attacks on government forces to back its demand for a role in government.

The head of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights and Complaints Kem Sokha, said he was putting

forward an amendment for inclusion in the bill to ensure the door was not shut to future talks with the Khmer Rouge.

"I'm trying to put an article to keep the door open for the Khmer Rouge for negotiations in the future," he said.

He said the amendment was in line with a proposal by King Norodom Sihanouk who last week expressed his opposition to the legislation.

"If after adopting this law the war increases then the king could achieve peace through national reconciliation," he told Reuters.

King Sihanouk had earlier said he would refuse to sign the outlaw bill into law.

It would have to be endorsed by the acting head of state and president of the National Assembly, Chea Sim, he said in a letter sent to a former adviser last week.

The 71-year-old king, in Beijing for medical treatment, did not give reasons for his objections but diplomats said the original draft law would effectively shut the door on the Khmer Rouge being part of a negotiation process for a peace agreement which the king had proposed.



## Jordanian theatre experiences a rebirth

By Mohammad Mashariqah

It would not be an exaggeration to say that this year's Jordanian Youth Theatre Festival would leave its impression on the Jordanian theatre movement and constitute a remarkable turning point in the Kingdom's cultural life.

The new generation of Jordanian theatre groups do not believe in symbols to express opinions on stage as had been the practice for many years due to the prevailing political circumstances at the time.

Through symbols rather than open and free expression of views many poor theatre activities and plays were presented to the audience in the past, prompting many journalists to level severe criticism at theatre groups in Jordan.

It has to be noted here that criticism levelled against poor shows on stage in the past four years has paved the way for the emergence of quite reasonable developments in theatre work. One aspect of developments could be found in the new trend towards clarity and serious acting away from oration, slogan and politicisation and were catering to the

satisfaction of the young and the old.

Therefore it was not surprising to see a group of directors, actors and musicians excelling in this year's youth theatre festival. So far we have watched five performances in which the classic academic techniques were used.

Faisal Zoubi, who presented the play *The Stronger*, and Thiyab Shahin, with his *Over There On The Coastland*, have obviously faced a very strenuous challenge in presenting their plays in a classical manner, serving in a clear departure from the hitherto prevailing traditions.

### AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Indeed Shahin has succeeded in rehabilitating the role of the actor and actress on stage through his fine work of art.

Shahin has succeeded in transforming the script of the play written by Fathi Abdul Rahman into real life embodied in the characters who were met with standing ovations in two successive presentations.

*Over There On The Other Coastland* relates the tale of an Arab family that has emigrated to America seeking a better future and a decent life.

But once the children have grown up, a struggle starts between the parents and the children over concepts and values that have different dimensions in America than in the Arab World.

The struggle is terminated with the parents' divorce and the son (Jalal-Jack) indulging in drug addiction and the daughter (Sally-Sally) taking up prostitution as a profession.

The son dies trying to seize part of his father's inheritance while the daughter abandons the household.

"Cursed be on the life in the diaspora. Tomorrow I will buy you tickets to fly back to our hometown where you will marry off the son and daughter to relatives there," says the father. But the father who meets with total failure later changes his mind and decides to try his luck again in the new land. He seeks a divorce in order to marry his young American girlfriend and finally leaves his household.

Sally, the daughter, discovers that her mother has

been stealing from her father's store and has opened a private bank account, believing that her husband would eventually desert her. The mother eventually leaves the house leaving behind a blind girl called Sophy who tries to retain the family unity by finding pretexts to justify her parents' behaviour.

"I realise the hardships of life here but we can do something and save what we can save," says Sophy. Shahin has chosen a wrestling ring to serve as a stage for the play with the audience surrounding the stage to closely watch the events.

He presented the mental and psychological struggle as a struggle for life among wrestlers on the stage and has succeeded in projecting the right characters, talents and particularly the gifts of actress Nazireh Adib who played the role of the blind daughter.

Background music for the play, composed by Walid Al Hashim, added to its success which is regarded as an embodiment of academic musicians cooperation with theatre in Jordan.

These new works signal the birth of a new and different kind of plays that are bound to positively affect the theatre movement in the Kingdom.



Nazireh Adib and Mustapha Abu Humud in the play *Over There On The Coastland*



Tahani Abdul Rahman (right) and Mustapha Abu Humud in the play *Over There On The Coastland*

## Jasoor quarterly magazine — a daring project

By Muhammad Daoud Tahboub

In modern times it has become vital for any culture to build up bridges with other existing cultures in order to form a solid basis for a better understanding among nations, better emotional ties, for elimination of cause of war and thus for spreading a long-sought peace. Therefore, inter-cultural link is indispensable and an important factor in modern world. It should be noted that economic or commercial relations between different nations are not substitutes as some theories are trying to assert. They may be beneficial for a while for a certain period of time but they do not have the power of continuity and drive as cultural interpenetration. Here stems the necessity of cultural institution and establishments because presentation on one's culture is an art, and there comes the role of specialised magazines, like the new quarterly magazine *Jasoor* which is a right move in the right direction in the field.

Edited in Bethesda, USA, it started since 1993 to pave the way towards achieving a cherished goal of acquainting the Western public and immigrants of Arab origin with Arab modern culture in its new trends and creativity. Edited in both English and Arabic, it succeeded so far in putting before readers a wide range of literary, historic, social and artistic topics and thus it attracted fans of renowned names of the World of Arabic culture today and great Western thinkers as well.

The fourth and the latest edition this study is trying to review contains works and essays of such thinkers

and poets as Roger Garaudy, Hussain Mu'enes, Daniel Moore, Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, Mahmoud Darwish, Khalil Khouri, Mohammad Afifi Matar... etc.

Topics of this edition are not ordinary essays to be found in other non-specialised magazines. They are rather academic and highly intellectual studies. Each one is a serious thorough and informative study in its field which affords not just mental enjoyment of reading but unquestionably adds, in an accumulative fashion, to one's knowledge and education; that is in addition to the interesting contents of these topics.

Al Akash (Munir) *The Tree of Universe* is a well-referenced and daring probe in the origin of life and though in many respects it reflects the writer's own conception of existence which he tries to cement with prevailing scientific outlooks and logic, it remains a valuable and an invitation-for-all-minds-to-attend essay since it looks like a banquet of ideas. "Our modern physics, which dreams of the absolute, has begun to form the natural religion of the human experience in the Universe..." Garaudy's *Which Kingdom Has Jesus Proclaimed?* is a new outlook of its kind and content. It is a mental as well as a spiritual journey in a suit-like manner and attire and although it is said that Garaudy embraced Islam, his essay in some places doesn't reflect the Islamic attitude concerning this matter. "This future is open for us not by returning to the worldly life of a Christ who was crucified for one day two thousand years ago..." or "by Christ's death he saved us from fear of death..." etc.

The reader can't but admire the courage of this

magazine in admitting different subjects reflecting different philosophical and ideological stands as if to say "ours is a free platform for all creative minds to share." Al Faruqi's essay *Islam and Zionism* for example suggests that the right solution to the Jewish problem is not in founding a Jewish state with pure Jewish authority among a sea of Arabs and Muslims because such a state, though now can, by power of weapons and constant Western support, uphold its security and well being can't continue forever and at a certain stage in the future such security can be shattered in a minute. So the only secured life the Jews will ever have is in an Islamic justice-oriented state where the rights of People of the Book are guaranteed by Sharia, not by moods of different regimes or systems.

Selected works of famous poets find their proper place in this edition with fine extraordinary translation into English. *Psalms* of Mahmoud Darwish adorn the English first pages.

I tried to paint a name for an olive  
tree around a waist, and a star propagated

\*\*\*

O homeland which recurs in slaughters and in songs

Why do I smuggle you from airport to airport  
Like the opium

The white ink,  
And the transmitter

Khalil Al Khouri's *The Stranger* finds its place and

way to readers' hearts

O Jesus Christ  
When you roam  
In the streets of Hebron  
Or Bethlehem lanes,  
In the coldness of this night  
And wander from Beit Ania and Bir Zeit  
Envelope yourself  
With your woolen cloak  
For the night is snowing  
And the wind is blowing

The great Egyptian poet Mohammad Afifi Matar demonstrates his experience in prison in sensitive, fine and heart-touching verses. In *Celebration Of The Savage Mummy* we read:

An eternity of darkness or a night gathering  
The blackness of the kohl and far from calamities  
dust of Time?  
Your eyes under a tied headband, its knot sinking  
Into your skull, and you battered  
...O last of the captives and no redeemer  
Your country stormed, its wind, and sand led into  
captivity  
And this night begins...

One essay is indeed not enough to cover the wealth of subjects in this magazine. We hope it shall continue to succeed in its endeavour as it has done till now.

## No sex please, we're Indian

By M. Nayan Swamy  
Sany  
Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI — India may be shedding years of protectionism, but the country which gave the world the jama Sutra is apparently not yet ready for an onslaught of magazines in which women shed their clothes.

The press of the editor of the glossy adult monthly *Fantasy* has divided this largely conservative society between those who advocate free circulation of publications featuring nude women and those who want them outlawed. Author and journalist Khushwant Singh comes

clearly down on the side of those who oppose India's obscenity laws and consider them archaic.

"There is so much hypocrisy about obscenity in the country," moaned Mr. Singh, who is an editorial advisor to *Fantasy*, one of the new publications posing a challenge to the obscenity statutes.

*Fantasy*, like most other such magazines, features centrefolds and pin-ups of partially-clad Indian women and carries advertisements from persons seeking sex partners.

Scores of other such publications, many crudely printed, in virtually all

Indian languages sell like hotcakes on pavements and in railway and bus stations for five rupees (15 cents) to 100 rupees (\$3).

Mr. Singh, whose writings are heavily laced with sexual innuendo, said there should be no curbs on magazines such as *Fantasy* as long as the *Kama Sutra*, India's oldest sex manual, could be freely bought in bookstores.

He was among several leading journalists who denounced the June 16 arrest of *Fantasy* editor Vicky Bhargava in the northern city of Allahabad on charges of publishing obscene photographs.

Bhargava, who was freed on bail a day later,

said the semi-nude pictures featured in *Fantasy* and its sister publication *Fun* were well "within the reasonable limits of decency as permitted by the Indian law."

Not everyone agrees. "Fantasy is an insult to women," said Malvika Pandey, who heads a women's group that has been campaigning for the cancellation of its publishing license.

Kalpna Mehta, a women's activist, said she was not opposed to nudes. "There is no point in being prudish about it," she said. "There are good nudes, good classical nudes. We do not have

problems with that. But if the sex magazines go beyond erotica, they should be banned."

Sales of the adult magazines are permitted by varied interpretations of the obscenity laws. Some police officers said they do not seize allegedly pornographic literature if there is no display of public hair.

But *Playboy* and *Penthouse* still get impounded by customs.

In May, an Indian clone of *Playboy* was asked to stop publication by a court here after *Playboy* Enterprises Inc. alleged it was trying to pass itself off as the original.

"*Playway* has a readers'

page about their sexual fantasies, articles about sexual and social ills, cartoons relating to sex, interviews, centrefolds and nude and semi-nude pictures," said Pravin Anand, a lawyer for *Playboy*.

Editors, activists and police admit that the magazines that show women in various states of undress sell because of demand.

"There is great market demand," said Bharat Malik, editor and publisher of *Playway*, which was launched in January and sells some 30,000 copies. "All kinds of people read it, even the old,

the women..."

"Just as the government is liberalising, the people are also liberalising," said Malik, 30, an economics graduate. He said another magazine which he started in 1992, called *Naughty Boy*, had flopped, however.

"There is a lot of sexual awakening," said P.L. Khanna, a sexologist here. "There is a terrific change. Now even young girls bring their husband and tell us: Please doctor, do something. He is not satisfying me."

Anand, the lawyer, said that if *Playboy* was allowed in India, it would sell in the millions.

"The Indian psyche is very fond of magazines like this," he told AFP. "The Indian male has lived in a life of suppression and the truth is he likes to read these magazines."

But Prakash Kothari, the country's best-known sexologist who writes a column for the magazine *Chastity*, said the interest in sex magazines would soon wither away.

Kothari, who organised the first international conference on the orgasm here in 1991, said: "Let us wait for a couple of years. This craze will die... Just as it has happened in a city like Copenhagen."



## Hollywood meets Silicon Valley in multi-media explosion

CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) — In a marriage made in high-tech heaven, Hollywood is teaming up with Silicon Valley to fuel an explosion in interactive multimedia products hitting the U.S. markets.

The major film studios were out in force at a major electronics exposition in this midwestern city June 23-25, taking their place alongside editors of educational and recreational software.

Walt Disney Company has concluded licensing deals with Microsoft Cor-

poration, the world's leading software editor, and Sony Imagesoft, a subsidiary of the Japanese electronics giant.

The aim is to parlay the worldwide fame of Mickey Mouse and the other Disney characters into marketable multimedia items.

Microsoft will launch later this year a Mickey Mouse game for young children that will be available on a diskette for personal computers. Sony Image is also working with Disney on a Mickey video game.

Such linkups will likely multiply with film studios seeking new revenue-producing outlets and software editors on the lookout for heroes to sell their video wares, analysts agree.

Steven Spielberg, the movie blockbuster king who brought the world E.T., Indiana Jones and Jurassic Park, has struck a deal with knowledge Adventure Incorporated to make educational software. He also has a big stake in the firm.

For its part 20th Century Fox has established a

subsidiary, Fox Interactive, to put its film library and other productions of media magnate Rupert Murdoch's parent company News Corporation to multimedia use.

"It reflects what's happening in the industry as a whole," said Cynthia Upson, a representative of the group that mounted the exposition here. "Hollywood is meeting Silicon Valley."

Major electronics firm such as Panasonic and Philips are now focusing on multimedia equipment. Philips Media, subsidi-

ary of the Dutch group Philips Electronics N.V., has unveiled two interactive compact disk players (CD-i) priced cheaply to boost the company's share of the U.S. market.

The company is looking above all at the \$6 billion a year video game market still dominated by Nintendo and Sega.

"We are ready to give up the hardware to sell the software," said John Hawkins, the head of Philips Media.

The device plugs into a television and allows buyers to view films or

listen to audio compact disks as well as play video games.

Philips is counting heavily on the CD-i player, along with new videogames and films, to boost U.S. sales. So far, working with a three-year-old model, the company has been able to sell only 250,000 units a year.

The infatuation with multimedia has also struck telephone companies which hope to cash in on mass-appeal software as they find new ways of making money from the so-called information

super-highway.

ATT, the world leader in telecommunications, has invested heavily in 3DO, which develops video games and makes consoles.

The GTE telephone company set up a subsidiary four years ago to produce video games and unveiled at the Chicago exposition 20 games which analysts said probably cost tens of millions of dollars to develop.

One of the biggest debates in the fast-moving sector is the choice of formats for running software.

Currently three exist: the cartridges used by Nintendo, the CD-ROM adapted for personal computers and the CD-i for television proposed by Philips.

Many experts, including Ted Hoff, head of the interactive division of Fox Media, believe that multimedia purveyors will turn increasingly towards the CD-ROM in the coming years for games and educational software.

But the big question for the long term, the experts add, is how to link up computers and television.

## Honecker shocks Germans from the grave with memoirs

BERLIN (AFP) — A month after his death, former East German leader Erich Honecker pulled off a final coup from beyond the grave as his memoirs were published last week, replete with potential embarrassment for Bonn.

Honecker, who died in exile in Chile from cancer, lauded the Marxist system which he led for almost two decades as superior to that of the capitalist West, and also threw into doubt claims by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that the leader of then West Germany never made concessions to the East Berlin regime.

Honecker praised the quality of dialogue he said existed between the two Germanies and said that until the Berlin wall fell in November 1989, nobody

called the legitimacy of the East into question, least of all Kohl.

He further revealed that his Western opposite number paid a visit to the East in 1988 which was never made public. Having come to power in 1982, Kohl made his first official visit to the East in December 1989, after Honecker was toppled.

Honecker himself was received with all the pomp afforded to other heads of state when he attended an historic 1987 inter-German summit in the West.

The late East German leader wrote his "Moabit notes" between July 1992 and January 1993, while awaiting trial in the Berlin prison of the same name for his role in the deaths which occurred of people



Erich Honecker with his wife, Margot, while in exile in Chile prior to his death

trying to flee across the wall.

He left for Santiago de Chile with his wife Margot after the trial was stopped on health grounds as the extent of Honecker's liver

cancer became apparent.

The notes, which formed Honecker's political testament, run to 250 pages and comprise a rambling indictment of German unification along-

side a tribute to the future of socialism.

They also include details of meetings he had with various West German politicians.

"The fall of the German

Democratic Republic deeply affected me, but it did not remove my faith in socialism as the only option for a humane and just society," he said in the preface to the work.

"Since capitalism has existed, the communists have belonged to the persecuted of this world," he added.

The notes were written in a simple style, full of references to the "class struggle" and the "internal contradictions" of capitalism.

The unreconstructed Honecker also attacked former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at length for his policy of perestroika, designed to modernise communism, but which led to the demise of East Germany and the Soviet Union itself.

In addition, the author bitterly concluded there was a high-level conspiracy in the ruling communist Socialist Unity Party (SED) to get rid of him. He alleged that "proposals for Gorbachev-style change, added to the irritation of the masses and the indecision of the East Berlin leadership, finally led to the collapse of the German Democratic Republic."

He accused Mr. Gorbachev of setting in train the "dismantling of the socialist system" as soon as he entered the Kremlin in 1985, and dropping links with East Berlin to push his idea of the common European home.

Warning to his theme of plots and treason, Honecker refused to believe the system could have col-

lapsed under the weight of popular protest alone.

For him, the country he led was a model socialist state which guaranteed work for its citizens, along with cheap rents and a working social system.

In a rare show of weakness, the man who personally oversaw the building of the wall in 1961 did admit East Germans should have had a greater say in policies pursued by their leaders.

More significantly, he conceded that the East's successful campaign to destabilise the Federal Republic's Democrat Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1974 by planting spy Guenter Guillaume in Brandt's inner circle was a mistake. Brandt was forced to resign.

## Lying in state

### Watergate: The Corruption And Fall Of Richard Nixon

By Fred Emery  
Cape £20 pp448

It took Richard Nixon 20 persevering years to try to live it down, but he never quite managed it. The obituarists a month ago dwell sonorously on his diplomatic successes, after all, Henry Kissinger was there to encourage them. But there were still one or two to insist that Watergate had mutilated the power of the presidency and that Nixon's foolishness was responsible. And all that time in the BBC there was nice Mr. Emery working away on a liberal update of the story.

It is an able update. There has been laborious compilation and comparison of the myriad self-seeking, rumour-strewn accounts of the Watergate break-in and cover up Emery has lived with the story ever since he covered it for The Times as its Washington bureau chief. He even indulges himself with some 10 or so personal mentions — none of them important. But he has weighed the evidence thoughtfully. He and his BBC team have even come upon an attempt by Nixon's attorney-general and friend, John Mitchell, to admit his own guilt if it saved Nixon; he got nowhere. They found, too, unshredded evidence that Nixon's chief of staff, Bob

Haldeman knew two months ahead that the Electronic surveillance plan, for which \$300 million was found, was under way. If Haldeman knew the inference, Nixon must have known.

So Emery sees no reason to change the standard liberal interpretation of the Watergate goings-on. He will not touch with a bargepole the Colson-Gottin account (in Silent Coup) that it was all devised by John W. Dean III, the Nixon counsel, and chief Judas, to earn Brownie points for his scandal-loving master. He wastes little time on tales that what the burglars were after was catching Democratic bigwigs making assignments with call-girls. He is rigorous with more speculation. "Deep Throat", with his tip-offs to the Washington Post men, is relegated to a dismissive footnote.

So Nixon stands guilty: certainly guilty of the cover-up, abusing power and obstructing justice. It is right that we should be reminded of this, especially now. But in too many ways, Emery does not begin to explain Nixon or the reasons for his actions. This is, after all, the man who in his last hours in the White House still felt able to go about telling family friends and remaining supporters. "I hope I haven't let you down." He had, of course, let down the 47 million people (a plurality of 18 million) who voted for him in 1972. But why did Nixon act as he did?

Emery rattles through the standard explanations. Nixon was obsessed because he had won in 1968 only as a minority

president. He believed he had been cheated by the Kennedys in 1960 of the 50,000 votes in Illinois and Texas which had lost him that election. He hated the left-wing bias of the media. He distrusted the bureaucratic system. He and his people lived in Washington as in an enemy town. Emery tells us this, but in a brief and barbed way. After 20 years, he might have done better than that.

Certainly, he may say that this would mean writing a different book from the one he had in mind. He lived through Watergate: he worked for an editor, William Rees-Mogg, who was not confident that Nixon would be found to be guilty; he has every right to nail Nixon again now. But if it is true, as he tells us, that for clever young BBC producers today, Watergate is "as distant as the Napoleonic wars" and needs to be told again, it is (besides raising doubts about such producers' ability) fair to expect a wider and therefore truer perspective.

Take the American political system itself. The British do not understand it. They think the president is all that matters, and that, because elections change him, it is a two-party system. But for more than 60 years now, the Republican Party has only twice (in 1947 and 1953) had a majority in the House of Representatives. The Democrats organise everything, especially the committees that count. The Republicans seldom control the Senate either. Their relationship with the Congress is almost wholly adversarial. This is fundamental to the perennial state of grievance in which Republicans live. It also actively encourages conspiracy in both parties (illegal secrecy in one, illegal disclosure in the other).

With Nixon, the Democratic Congress took no prisoners. It detested him, as he detested it. It was also in a mood to detest all presidents: it had had enough of the imperial presidency of its own Kennedy and Johnson. It prefers weak men, and nowadays the electorate serves them up regularly: Carter, Reagan (who surprised them and the Russians), Bush, Clinton. But there is always a difference. If there were to be an attempted impeachment of the Democratic President Clinton, he would start with every committee loaded his way. It was part of Nixon's folly in 1972 that he preferred to pile up his own presidential majority to campaigning for Congressional Republicans.

To Nixon, the justification of all that he connived at or actually instigated was that he always had to fight the system. Many Republicans understand that to the end. It hardly mattered that he employed people anxious to break into the Democratic Party's offices. They wanted him to go on playing it tough. It was his eventual defiance of the courts over his own tapes, even though his burglars had carried no firearms, accepted arrest and got nowhere, that dished him with the law-and-order party.

The further consequence of fighting the system is attracting the lunatics. The Nixon camp entertained more than its share. Their ideas knew few bounds: set fire to the Brookings Institution (home of the Democrat's government-in-exile), assassinate the columnist Jack Anderson, drug Daniel Ellsberg (leaker of the Pentagon Papers) and kidnap the leaders of any demonstration at the Republican convention. They had already burgled Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office, forged a cable from the Vietnam war and been ready to bug all and sundry.

Such fantasies exist in all parties, at all times. It 1894 the Unionist Fred Crawford had planned to kidnap Gladstone on the sea front at Brighton, get him on board a fast steam yacht and hold him on a Pacific island until a change of government ended any chance of Irish home rule. It didn't happen because he couldn't raise the £10,000 he needed. There is a lesson there; even the Republicans' paranoia would not necessarily have led to the Watergate burglary if they had not had dollars to burn.

The story has few heroes. Gordon Liddy, the break-in leader who actually kept his mouth shut (until recently), is probably one. But Senator Sam Ervin, the homespun chairman of the investigating committee, ran it and its staff on ruthlessly partisan lines. He was glad to offer Dean immunity. Judge John Sirica, the toast of Georgetown, was all for exemplary sentences (otherwise anathema to liberals) more suited to terrorist bombers, not political burglars. The prospect of 30 years for entering a Watergate office was meant to break any defendant.

As it was, most of the gang were more ready to sing anyway, both in court and in their memoirs afterwards. Emery shows conclusively how the word of almost none of them coincided with anyone else's. Their upgarication

## BOOK REVIEWS



Richard Nixon

matched their incompetence. Of course, the government agencies were frightened silly. It took a good Democratic lawyer, Archibald Cox, to prosecute and a good Republican one, Elliot Richardson, who backed him, to stand on principle. For the rest, the republic was fortunate to be assailed by mere bunglers, even though they had the president working for them — The Sunday Times.

Alastair Burnet

## Narrating their own story

### Homeland: Oral Histories Of Palestine And Palestinians

Edited by Staughton Lynd, Sam Bahour and Alice Lynd.  
310 pages, \$14.95. New York: Olive Branch Press, 1994

Despite a proliferation of literature in English on the Question of Palestine, there are almost no oral histories. Usually, the closest one gets are books which rely heavily on interviews and give a partial account of particular phases of Palestinian experience. (Examples of this type include Rosemary Sayigh's *Palestinians: From Peasants to Revolutionaries* and Julie M. Peteet's *Gender in Crisis: Women and the Palestinian Resistance Movement*).

*Homeland: Oral Histories Of Palestine And Palestinians* is an attempt to fill this gap — one which does not exist by accident. The book opens with a passage by the noted scholar Edward Said, explaining some of the reasons for the scarcity of such oral history. Referring in particular to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon, he reminds us that: "The problem of survival is so great that you don't think in terms of narration, just in terms of getting through the next day" (page 3).

With this in mind, it is not surprising that the idea for *Homeland* grew out of Palestinian experience in the United States. The three editors are all members of the Youngstown (Ohio) Coalition for Peace in the Middle East. At a public meeting sponsored by this group, participants were encouraged to speak about the Middle East conflict, based on their own experience. The spontaneous testimonies given that evening spurred Sam Bahour and Staughton and Alice Lynd to begin taping interviews with Palestinians living in the United States or visiting there. Eventually it led them to occupied Palestine and Israel, where they collected stories from many more persons.

Together the interviews they collected cover most of the landmarks of Palestinian experience and are divided accordingly, by time, place or theme: 1948, the camp, 1967, women, Jordan and Lebanon, prisoners, workers and farmers, families, resistance in the occupied territories and behind the green line.

Most eloquent among the various narratives are,

those by ex-prisoners. The passages related by Salah Ta'amari about his experience in solitary confinement are especially articulate: "It was my culture that rescued me. I remembered that in our culture, time is the morning star, sunrise, noon, afternoon, and evening. It's not divided into seconds and minutes and hours. But how was I to know whether it was dawn or noon or night?... It was the twittering of birds coupled with the roar of cars on a far-away highway that told me... Being in solitary sharpened my sense of justice, of beauty, in exactly the same way that the earth sharpens the plough. The huge, tremendous fight in the solitary made me become able to act and respond quickly at Ansar" (pages 110-111).

Ta'amari gives a perceptive, lively account of how detainees organised themselves at Ansar, South Lebanon, and won the battle of nerves with their Israeli captors. Yet despite the fact that Ta'amari was chairman of the Ansar prisoners' committee, one feels a bit uncomfortable with his tendency to attribute the entire organising effort to one person — himself. Numerous other testimonies included in the book, by ex-prisoners who speak in terms of "we," ring truer, for it is obvious that collective spirit is the key to successful organising anywhere, but most especially in prison.

Besides being systematically organised, the book is painstakingly documented, mainly with references to U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. It also goes to great pains to be balanced. For Palestinian readers, this may seem somewhat tedious, since they know the facts of things like Israeli torture all too well. However, the book is obviously geared to have an impact on American public opinion, where such documentation serves its purpose.

This being the case, there is still a great need for these and other chapters of Palestinian history to be narrated and recorded by and for Palestinians themselves, as part of their cultural heritage. An urgent example is the 1936 revolt, whose actors are from a generation that is fast passing away. And hopefully, the "children of the stones" will someday have the time and leisure to tell the story of the intifada in retrospect.

Sally Bland

## Spain seeks wider debate on test tube embryos

MADRID (R) — What to do with hundreds of frozen embryos left over after in vitro fertilisation? It's a tricky question for some Spanish doctors.

It is not that Spain lacks the legal framework to deal with the complex ethical issues involved in artificial reproduction.

But five years after a wide-ranging law was passed to regulate one of the 20th century's most controversial sciences, a national commission to discuss such issues, which the decree said should be set up, is still a dream.

The fate of spare embryos is just one dilemma arising from the lack of a national forum for debate.

In-vitro fertilisation (IVF) was developed to enable women with dam-

aged fallopian tubes to have children. It involves creating human embryos by uniting eggs and sperm in a laboratory and then transplanting the embryo into the womb.

Embryos which have not been used in the IVF process are put in storage, but after two years they are free to be donated. Or so Spanish law says.

In practice, clinics are reluctant to stick too closely to the legal letter because they fear donors may later turn up looking for the embryos.

"We have never proceeded to donation without the written consent of the couple, even though the law allows it," said Montse Boada, a doctor at Barcelona's Da Xeus Clinic.

The problem of spare embryos arises because the woman is hormonally stimulated to ovulate. Not every woman reacts in the same way to hormones and while one woman may produce six or seven ova, another may produce up to 30.

"When they are inseminated, depending on the levels of fertility, we could also get 20 or 30 embryos," said Doctor Amparo Ruiz of the Infertility Institute of Valencia.

Octavo Quintana, an adviser to the government health department, says the national commission is in the pipeline.

"At this moment, we are almost in agreement on this and the commission will probably be created within the next few

months."

Even more worrying for many doctors than the delay in forming the commission on artificial reproduction is the lack of a national bioethics commission to discuss more general themes.

"It is inconceivable that in a country boasting such developed techniques, there should be no national commission to act as the main advisory body," said Juan Ramon De La Cadena, head of genetics at Madrid's Complutense University.

"My opinion is that Spain should have a bioethics commission but there are many variants. It's a very open subject and no concrete model has yet been found," Dr. Quintana said.

In the absence of central guidance, Spanish clinics are forced to regulate themselves and some say this is a good thing.

"I believe the delay (in implementing) the law could have arisen partly, and I say this with great pride and satisfaction, because our centres are regulated very well," said Marcelo Palacios, a doctor and member of the advisory body which helped the government draft the 1988 law.

Dr. Ruiz does not agree. "The national commission as laid down by the law is basic and fundamental," she said.

The 1988 law also provides for the creation of a national register of clinics and banks of human gametes (reproductive cells), but this too is yet to

come into being.

Dr. Ruiz's clinic has compiled its own register. "But at a national level, I think there is no control of data and I think the majority of centres do not keep registers either," she said.

The 1988 law is largely accepted by doctors, but it has also been criticised at times for trying to go too far too fast.

"I think the Spanish law was a pioneering one. It was one of the first and it has been accused of ultra-permissiveness," said Dr. Quintana. Unlike many other countries, Spain makes artificial reproduction available to all women, not just those in couples.

"The law is adequate and progressive and to a

certain degree permissive, but it doesn't say crazy things," he added.

Dr. Ruiz also praises the law. "It is one of the most complete laws around, but when it was formulated it said it would include the designation of a national commission to deal with special problems and this is absolutely necessary."

One of the areas which most frightens Dr. De La Cadena is the possibility of unsupervised experimentation between human and animal genes, such as variations on the so-called hamster test.

He said one of the main tasks of a commission on bioethics would be authorising such scientific investigation.

The hamster test is used to examine the fertility

levels of human sperm by uniting them in a laboratory with eggs from a female hamster. It was banned by the European Council in 1984, but the ban was relaxed in 1986.

"I ask myself: If the hamster test is being carried out routinely in numerous laboratories, would it not be just as easy to fertilise the eggs of a kind of monkey with human sperm?" Dr. De La Cadena wrote in a recent paper.

"The law prohibits any other kind of experiment between human gametes and animals unless it has been authorised by the national commission and if you do not have a national commission, it leaves the door wide open."

## AIDS global cases up 60 per cent, Asia hit hard

GENEVA (R) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated the number of AIDS cases worldwide had risen by 60 per cent to four million in the year to July, and predicted a continued "explosive increase" in Asia.

The United Nations agency said the epidemic was spreading fastest in Asia, where there was an eight-fold jump in estimated cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), to 250,000 cases from 30,000 in July 1993.

In a semi-annual report, it estimated AIDS cases worldwide had risen to four million from 2.5 mil-

lion, with Asia's share growing to six per cent from one per cent a year ago.

"If anyone needed proof that the AIDS epidemic is established in Asia they need look no further," Michael Merson, executive director of the WHO's Global Programme on AIDS, said.

"The global AIDS epidemic is now spreading in Asia faster than anywhere else in the world. Soon more Asians than Africans will be getting infected each year," he was quoted as saying.

The largest number of estimated AIDS cases — more than 2.5 million

— is in sub-Saharan Africa. The region also has more than 10 million adults infected with the HIV virus which causes the killer disease, according to the WHO report.

An estimated 16 million adults and one million children have the HIV virus worldwide. Almost half of the three million new adult infections since a year ago have been in women.

"The end of the epidemic is nowhere in sight," who said.

The Geneva-based agency has predicted that between 30 million and 40 million people will be infected by the year 2000.

"But the epidemic ex-

pansion will be most dramatic in Asia," WHO has said.

The report said the current cumulative total of more than 2.5 million infections in Asia, with about 40 per cent of the infections in women, was expected to increase four-fold to more than 10 million infections by the year 2000.

"If effective HIV prevention programmes are not put in place, Asia will overtake Africa by the mid to late 1990s in terms of the number of newly infected people per year," it said.

Mr. Merson said: "While Africa experiences

increases in AIDS cases as a result of HIV infections that occurred about 10 years ago, south and south-east Asia are seeing an explosive increase in infections among vulnerable population groups."

Heterosexual transmission of the HIV virus has been expanding in the region, with significant levels of infection in female sex workers in several states of India, cities of Burma and "across Thailand", according to the report.

Mr. Merson was also quoted as saying he had "great concern about the serious potential" for the spread of HIV in China, which has officially re-

ported 36 cases up to last December.

WHO said 985,119 AIDS cases had been officially reported to it since the onset of the pandemic, but because of "under diagnosis, incomplete reporting and reporting delay", the true number of cases was believed to be about four million.

The latest number of AIDS cases reported by the U.S. government to WHO was 411,907, as of December 31, 1993.

The U.S. figure was 42 per cent of the total reported worldwide, but roughly 10 per cent of the estimated true total.

## WHO says leprosy can be wiped out

BANGKOK (AFP) — Leprosy, the ancient disease once synonymous with isolation colonies, could be just a memory by the end of the decade, a World Health Organisation (WHO) official has said.

But governments and health workers, faced with high-profile diseases such as AIDS and tuberculosis, are in danger of missing a "precious moment" to eliminate the disease, Dr. Shaik Noordeen told a press conference.

Dr. Noordeen, who heads the WHO leprosy unit, is to chair a four-day conference in Hanoi next week to convince policymakers, health agencies and potential financial donors of 29 countries to intensify their anti-leprosy efforts.

Some 3.1 million people are believed to have leprosy, a dramatic improvement on the 20 million cases reported just two decades ago, Dr. Noordeen said.

Multi-Drug Treatment (MDT), a decade-old therapy similar to chemotherapy for cancer, has made the condition curable within two years, said Dr. Yo Yuasa of the Tokyo-based Sasakawa Memorial Health Founda-

tion, co-sponsor of next week's event.

But some governments may still feel leprosy is "equated with backwardness or with being uncivilised," Dr. Yuasa said.

The highly visible symptoms of the condition, in which nerve-attacking bacteria cause skin to decay and, eventually, fall off, have made it an issue to be avoided, he said. "Leprosy has been dreaded not because it kills people but because it leaves them alive with deformities," Dr. Yuasa said.

"Leprosy is not as big a problem as AIDS, for example," Dr. Noordeen said. "But there should be a political will to end it just because it can be ended."

Six countries — India, Brazil, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Burma and Nigeria — account for 85 per cent of the leprosy cases in the world, according to WHO statistics. Some 600,000 cases are diagnosed worldwide each year.

South and East Asian countries, including host country Vietnam, account for 1.6 million cases of leprosy, or about half the total number of patients receiving treatment for the disease.

## French groups launch bid to decode gene 'regulators'

PARIS (R) — French researchers launched a pioneering programme to sequence and analyse key sections of the human genetic blueprint which

control the functioning of individual genes.

Officials at the Genethon Research Laboratory and drugs firm Genetec said the work

could speed the development of new pharmaceuticals to fight many diseases, including cancer.

"The deciphering of the human genome regulatory

code should have a profound impact on the development of new therapeutic technologies for curing hereditary diseases," said Genetec chief

executive Pascal Brandys.

By understanding the regulatory sections, scientists hope to identify the proteins, known as transcription factors, that activate genes. They could then design drugs which control or inhibit specific genes implicated in disease.

Scientists believe blocking transcription factors is an important new way of tackling diseases ranging from cancer and AIDS to asthma.

Regulatory regions make up some five per cent of the total human genome, the strands of genetic material grouped in each cell's 23 chromosomes which are made up of three billion base pairs of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).

Genethon and Genetec

said they were establishing a new laboratory known as TGS (Tres Grand Sequencage) at Evry, France, which would be the first in the world created to study the regulatory regions of the human genome.

Under the terms of agreement, the two organisations have made an initial commitment to the project of \$11 million, including a \$2 million equity stake in Genetec by Genethon.

The link is the first commercial collaboration by Genethon, a pioneering centre funded by donations to its annual telethon, which last year announced it had co-developed the first outline "map" of the human genome.

## U.S. suspects fiberglass as carcinogen

WASHINGTON (R) — The federal government has classified fiberglass insulation as a suspected carcinogen, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services have put the material, which is used in 90 per cent of U.S. homes, on an official list of suspected or known carcinogens, the paper said.

Government scientists made the new classification based upon scientific studies which are cited in a report to Congress that will be released publicly in a month, according to the Post.

The Post reported that fiberglass insulation — which is typically found within walls, under attic floors and inside other sealed areas — is listed as a "suspected," rather than a "known," carcinogen.

Officials said that despite the new classification, insulation is safe when handled properly, according to the Post.

The paper reported that Bill Jameson of the government's national toxicology programme in Raleigh, North Carolina, which prepared the report, cautioned that it is "not a risk assessment document."

Rather, he said, the classification is the first step in hazard identification and "kind of raises a flag" about potential problem chemicals.

Fiberglass insulation was one of seven additions to the list known as the annual report on carcinogens, which now identifies 180 substances. Radon, a naturally occurring gas which can leak into basements, was also added to the list — as a "known."

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

NAME-DROPPER

By Janet R. Bender

ACROSS  
1 Iraq city  
6 FLESH  
10 Lettuce  
15 Surly  
19 Spanish  
20 Concerning  
21 Eagle's nest  
22 Traveler Marco  
23 Solving instructions  
24 Singer Galt  
27 -des  
28 Japanese form  
29 Solving instructions  
30 Part 2  
31 Foreign  
32 Correspondent  
33 Old English coin  
35 Reverse evaluate

DOWN  
1 Future flowers  
2 Anchor position  
3 Cam  
4 By comers  
5 Common comment  
6 Line trees  
7 Hinder, for short  
8 -Prisoner, host  
9 Rich and fertile  
10 Unhappy  
11 Childhood from Rhoda Island  
12 Dine  
13 To one side  
14 Native of Iraq  
15 Was merciful to  
16 Perverse  
17 Assigned  
18 Barking topper  
19 Where Roma is  
20 Island near  
21 Sumatra  
22 Burying females

36 Turnpike fees  
37 Key of  
38 "Maid" with children  
39 Preparation for publication  
40 Answer and Berley  
41 Like Shes  
42 Water wheels  
43 Rival of Dom  
44 -Prisoner, host  
45 Part 2  
46 Part 2  
47 Leaves out  
48 Like an entry  
49 Females  
50 Great deal  
51 Old  
52 Fishing devices

53 MANNIES  
54 Knight's weapon  
55 -Lafite  
56 Warm odors  
57 Indolence  
58 Line trees  
59 Hinder, for short  
60 -Prisoner, host  
61 Rich and fertile  
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72 Break  
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74 Teachers  
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101 Slide remarks  
102 Visitors  
103 Postcard  
104 Ohio city  
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## CRYPTOGRAMS

1. DREJL MESSCHPPT KRJB KRJC TYTC  
MRRJ RQCT CELUPD DCTB HSK YJX  
QYSECK YP PCJ PUHEBYJX XHSYTB.

—By Earl Ireland

2. FEYXC ZTINSECT EI DYSFAC IXKYLEF  
TSC BGTZ PSIA BTG Y NEEDL PECK.

—By Barbara J. Egg

3. AT MY WOODWAY: ETR UWKI WOYCC AT  
KICKLY ME KIUDYCC. MRA WOYCC AT  
TRACKLY ME YUDYCC.

—By Ed Haddleton

4. "HAIL I KEPT." KEVNU LAN NZILNU  
IEKAINFPVXL HAND AN URP RS I  
SENKVPFX PENNY RED.

—By Deane H. McGoy

ACROSS  
1 Sheepfold  
2 Aced  
3 Aced  
4 Certain solid  
5 In the sack  
6 -man with  
7 Devoted  
8 Auditor, perhaps  
9 Function  
10 Chemistry dir  
11 Composition for  
12 Compendium  
13 In that case  
14 From - Z  
15 Blockade of a  
16 Demos, for one  
17 Dairy  
18 Between pref.  
19 End of gang or  
20 Rie  
21 Deer  
22 Revell secret  
23 Gables  
24 Reson  
25 Fashion  
26 Ornamental  
27 Farm measure  
28 In (yields)  
29 Remitted  
30 Piano  
31 Family member  
32 Montboard  
33 Silver  
34 Diamond  
35 Garfield's  
36 Unpleasant  
37 Comments  
38 Consumer  
39 Wee  
40 Numero

## ANSWERS

### PUZZLES

(A) FIND THE PARTNER  
HIS — BABETTE.

HER — RAYMOND.

(B) BREAD LINE

A loaf is 420 gr., a bun 60 gr. and a roll 150 gr.

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The monsoons are periodic winds that blow from the Indian Ocean over India, bringing the regular wet and dry seasons. Trade winds blow continuously towards the equator from the regions on either side. Simoons are hot winds that blow from the desert over Arabia and North Africa, accompanied with suffocating clouds of sand. The Fohn is the warm wind that blows down the valleys of the Alps. The Sirocco is the wind, wet or dry according to the season, that blows across the Mediterranean to its northern shores.

2. Homer, Galileo, Milton, W.H. Prescott, Louis Braille, Taha Hussein, Helen Keller.

3. The Pope is elected by the cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church who meet in conclave where there is a vacancy, and are secluded from the world until one of their number has been elected by the votes of two-thirds of those present. The Archbishop of Canterbury is appointed by the sovereign on the recommendation of the prime minister — in other words, by the prime minister.

4. Eros in Piccadilly Circus; Rims in Hyde Park; Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens; Boadicea on the Victoria embankment; Lincoln at Westminster.

5. Ant, dung-beetle, wasp, lady-bird, flea.

April 1994

## King: No Syria-Jordan crisis

(Continued from page 1)

peace in our region, a comprehensive peace if possible, and now we are looking after our own responsibilities towards our people and towards our country in this equation."

Asked if there were steps to be expected on the Jordanian-Israeli track similar to the Palestinian-Israeli track, the King said the issue was different.

Regarding the Palestinian track, he said, "we hope that our brethren unify their ranks on the Palestinian arena and to progress and that all their efforts end in success."

Mr. Mubarak, who has called for progress in Israeli-Syrian talks that have been stalled over Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, said the arrival of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho at the beginning of this month would smooth the way for other peace efforts.

"On the Syrian line I think the process is continuing. We expect problems will arise every now and then on all tracks... now that Arafat has arrived in his place and the wheel of the Palestinian problem started to move I think the other problems will be solved," Mr. Mubarak said.

said.

King Hussein was accompanied on the trip to Alexandria by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir and the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qasem.

"Egypt has a very important and effective role in the peace process and has good relations with Israel," said an unidentified Jordanian official in Amman quoted by Reuters.

"Therefore, it is very important for Jordan at this stage in its quest for peace to deepen coordination with Egypt and benefit from its past experience," he told Reuters.

King Hussein, in recent public statements, praised Egypt and insisted he will go all the way towards peace.

"We are facing a battle for peace. We hope we will succeed and give good results especially that our brethren went on the same path (towards peace)," the King said after returning to Amman on Saturday from talks in Washington and a private visit to London.

"Egypt was in the forefront... then came our beloved brethren in Palestine. Now it is high time for us to take care of the affairs of our homeland to enable it to stand firm in the face of the challenges."

By Michael Jansen in Jericho

Tawfiq Zayyad, three-time member of the Israeli Knesset from the Hadash Communist Party and long-time mayor of the Galilee town of Nazareth, was an ardent Palestinian nationalist and fine poet. His death in a tragic traffic accident Tuesday, driving on the perilous, steep and winding Taibeh-Jericho road, was a great loss to the Palestinian, and Arab, people. His most famous and oft-translated poem, called "The Impossible", was written in 1965, before the Israeli occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem. It showed him to be an intifadist behind-the-lines 22 years before the intifada began. He was both a struggler and a firm believer in Palestinian-Israeli, Christian-Muslim-Jewish coexistence. A Christian, he belonged to a three-member parliamentary party along with Hashem Mahameed and Umm Al Fahm and Tamar Gonzansky of Tel Aviv. Only 64, he had many more years to serve his people.

### The Impossible

It is much easier for you To Pass an elephant through a needle's eye

## The premature loss of a prophetic voice

Or catch fried fish in a galaxy.  
Plough the sea.  
Or humanise a crocodile.  
Than to destroy by persecution  
The shimmering glow of a belief  
Or check our march  
One single step.

As if we were a thousand prodigies  
Spreading everywhere  
In Lid  
In Ramlah  
In the Galilee.

Here we shall stay,  
A wall upon your breast.  
And in your throat we shall stick  
A piece of glass  
A cactus thorn.  
And in your eye  
A blazing fire.  
Here we shall stay,  
A wall upon your breast.  
Cleaning dishes in your bars.  
Filling cups for your masters.  
Sweeping your sooty kitchens.  
To snatch a bite from your blue fangs  
For our hungry children.  
Here we shall stay,  
A wall upon your breast.  
Facing starvation,  
Struggling with rags.  
Defying.  
Singing our songs.  
Swarming the streets with our wrath.

Filling your dungeons with pride.  
Rearing vengeance in new generations.

Like a thousand prodigies  
We roam along  
In Lid,  
In Ramlah,  
In the Galilee.

Here we shall stay  
Go then and drink the sea.  
Here we shall stay  
Unblinking sentinels on our earth and trees.  
Here we shall stay  
To ferment our cause as yeast does dough.  
Here we shall stay with ice cold nerves and hearts.  
We squeeze the rock to quench our thirst  
And lull starvation with dust.  
But we shall not depart.  
Here we shall spill our dearest blood.  
Here we have  
A past  
A future  
Here we are the unconquerable.  
So strike deep, strike deep  
My roots.

(September 1965 — Translated by Sulafa Hijawi for Al-Fateh)

A prophetic poem by a prophetic poet whose predictions had just begun to come true when he was killed.



Tawfiq Zayyad

## Street fighting in Aden

(Continued from page 1)

Aden peninsula where the old town is situated and where thousands of refugees have been sheltering after fleeing the fighting on the outskirts of the city.

On Tuesday trucks loaded with food and bottles of water and fruit juice left the northern capital Sanaa for Aden "to be distributed to the inhabitants," Sanaa television said.

Aden has been deprived of drinking water from a pumping station at Bir Nasser, 15 kilometres north of the city, for nine days.

Meanwhile journalists visiting Mukalla confirmed government forces have captured the southern city.

Both northern and southern Yemen had claimed they controlled Mukalla, 620 kilometres by road east of Aden.

The journalists also confirmed forces of the Sanaa-based Yemeni government have captured the airport of Al Rayan at Mukalla.

Sanaa-based foreign journalists, who flew in a C-130 military transport aircraft to Rayan from the northern capital on Wednesday, saw one southern MiG-29 plane captured intact there and a second one which was damaged.

Arab and Western diplomats said Wednesday the aim of the north's fierce offensive was to stop the Arab meeting in Kuwait from recognising the breakaway southern state.

Earlier the south's appointed "vice-president" Abdul Rahman Al Jifri urged the meeting to recognise the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic, saying he hoped the meeting "would not just simply appeal to the Sanaa leadership" for a ceasefire.

Southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh announced the south's secession May 20 and has vowed never to return to union with Mr. Saleh.

Nine ceasefires aimed at ending the conflict have collapsed within hours, with each side accusing the other

of being the first to break the truce. Two appeals from the U.N. Security Council for ceasefire have failed to firm the truce.

Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasim Jaber Al Thani, the foreign minister of Qatar, the only Gulf state to have shown some sympathy for northern Yemen, suggested that recognition would not precede a negotiated settlement.

"We do not want to be the arbiters to secession," he said.

The Damascus Declaration groups the Arab states that joined the multinational coalition to fight Iraq in the Gulf war: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Egypt.

It was formed to protect the Gulf from threats such as Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, but its military element — deployment of thousands of Syrian and Egyptian troops in the region — never took effect. It now functions mainly as a political cooperation forum.

### 'Aden surrender negotiated'

YEMEN's civil war foes are negotiating the surrender of those parts of Aden, southern political sources said on Wednesday. "The purpose of these negotiations, which are going on under American sponsorship, is to avoid further bloodshed in Aden and to surrender what remains of its areas without fighting," one source told Reuters reporter Mohammad Mokhashef. The southern source said the negotiations would include the offer a choice to leaders of the breakaway southern Yemeni state either to leave the country or remain with appropriate guarantees. Another southern political source said three southern leaders including Interior Minister Mohammad Ali Ahmad had left Aden by boat for Djibouti and would go from there to Sanaa to hold further talks with northern leaders.

## Arafat, Rabin reach accord

(Continued from page 1)

the rest of the West Bank to maintain the momentum and win over sceptical Palestinians.

Final status negotiations on the toughest issues, Jerusalem, Jewish settlements in occupied Arab land and the question of a Palestinian state, will start by mid-1996 at the latest.

The PLO wants Israel to remove troops from urban areas in the West Bank soon. Israel has stressed the link in last year's accord between the redeployment and free Palestinian elections.

Mr. Arafat said the Palestinians wanted to hold elections as fast as possible on "our land, in Gaza and the West Bank including Jerusalem." He set no date but said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter would help supervise polling.

Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres were to hold a further round of talks at midday Wednesday.

It was the first time the three men have met since the

May 4 signing of the autonomy accord.

That last meeting was in Cairo before a crowd of 2,000 invited guests. Extraordinary scenes broke out when Mr. Arafat only agreed to sign all of the accord after hasty backstage negotiations.

Mr. Peres said the two delegations agreed on Wednesday to set up a commission on problems which went "unresolved in Cairo." He said a second commission would be in charge of transferring powers to Palestinians in the fields of health, taxes, education and tourism.

The third commission would discuss the refugee problems.

Mr. Rabin said the talks were "devoted to the next stage of putting the declaration of principles" into action.

Mr. Arafat brought up the problems of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, the "isolation of Jerusalem" and the early empowerment of Palestinians to allow them to hold general elections.

By Matthew Campbell

MOSCOW — One of the West's most revered scientists provided an invaluable boost to early Soviet efforts to build nuclear bombs when he answered questions by agents sent from Moscow, according to documents unearthed in the archives of the former KGB.

The top-secret documents help resolve the debate raging around Niels Bohr, a founding father of atomic physics. Recent allegations by a former KGB spy master that he was one of four top Western scientists who helped Moscow develop nuclear weapons were dismissed with howls of rage by scientists and historians.

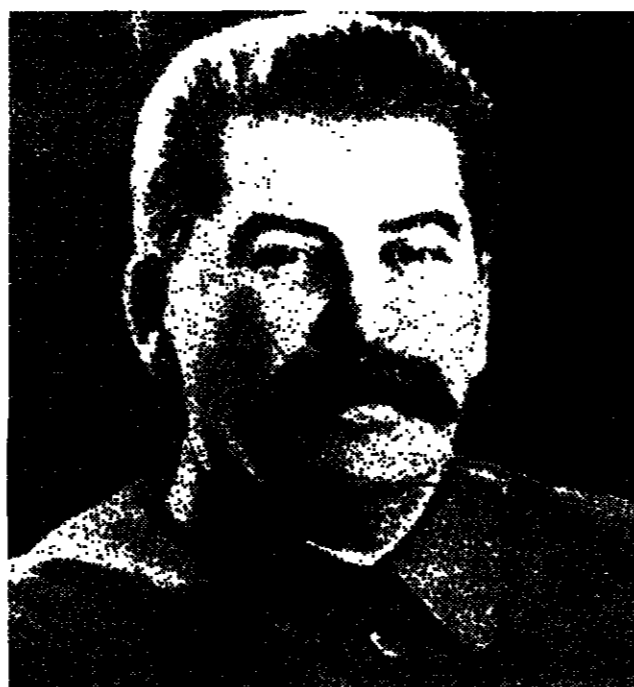
Files that have lain undisturbed for five decades in KGB archives substantiate claims that Bohr — wittingly or not — helped Joseph Stalin down the nuclear path, a tragic irony given Bohr's warnings of the dangers of an arms race. A senior British nuclear physicist said after reading the files that the Russians would have learned a great deal about American nuclear bomb design from Bohr.

Bohr fled Nazi-occupied Denmark in 1943 to Britain, where he was a prestigious recruit for a British team participating in the American A-bomb project. After the war, he returned to Copenhagen where, according to the documents, he held two meetings in November 1945 with Soviet officials.

They bombarded him with questions about how the Americans were splitting the atom. "By what method was uranium-235 obtained in large quantities and what method is the most promising — diffusion, magnetic or some other?" was their opening gambit at one meeting.

The meetings were organised by Lavrenti Beria, the head of the secret police, who wrote a report to Stalin. "We sent a group of agents to Denmark," Beria wrote, "under the pretext of looking for equipment stolen by the Germans, to make contact with Bohr and get information from him on the problems of the atomic bomb."

The agents selected for this task were Lev Vasilevsky, a colonel in the special "S" department of the secret services charged with atomic



Joseph Stalin

spying and Jacob Terletsky, a physicist responsible for analysing scientific intelligence.

"The meetings took place on 14th and 16th November," Beria reported, "on the pretext that Terletsky wanted to see the Institute of Theoretical Physics. Comrade Terletsky told Bohr that he considered it his duty to pay a visit to him and that Moscow University still has warm memories of the lectures Bohr gave there."

Pavel Sudaplatov, former

head of the "S" department, who is believed to have handled the assassination of Leon Trotsky, says in his book, Special Tasks, that Bohr, together with Robert Oppenheimer, Enrico Fermi and Leo Szilard, the other nuclear founding fathers, knowingly leaked secrets to Moscow through moles planted in the so-called Manhattan project for developing the A-bomb.

Bohr's son, Aage Niels Bohr, also a physicist, who



The aftermath of a nuclear explosion (file photo)

was present at the meetings with the Russians, has denied that the scientist offered them any help. He said one Russian "raised some technical questions concerning atomic energy, to which my father answered that he was not acquainted with details."

Files from the KGB archives show Bohr gave detailed replies to 22 questions prepared in advance by Igor Kurchatov, the director of Soviet nuclear research.

The KGB transcript of Bohr's conversation offers a fascinating insight into the level of scientific understanding at the time. Today's physics undergraduates could have answered every one of the questions put to Bohr without difficulty. But Stalin's best scientists hung on his every word.

In Kurchatov's appraisal, which also landed on Stalin's desk, Bohr was said to have given "a categorical answer to the question concerning the methods used by the U.S. to obtain uranium 235" and made an "important remark" concerning the effectiveness of using uranium which needed to be subjected to "theoretical analysis" by no fewer than three professors.

"This gives us a great deal of insight into a very important part of our history," said Dr. John Hassard, a nuclear physicist at London's Imperial College. "It emphasises just how much information was getting to the Soviets, some of it from establishment scientists such as Bohr."

Hassard believed the Soviets would have gleaned a lot from Bohr's comments, in particular the one he made in response to a question about how often the Americans were removing plutonium from their reaction — "the rumour is they do it once a week." This, said Hassard, "would have told the Russians a great deal about American bomb design."

Hassard said Bohr's description of the best cooling methods was exactly what the Russians had adopted in their RBMK nuclear reactors, such as the one at Chernobyl.

"He would have confirmed in their minds that this was the right way to go."

It has always been assumed that the Russians got most of their tips about bomb building from figures such as Klaus Fuchs, the German-born nuclear scientist working in Britain whose communist convictions led to him establishing links with Soviet intelligence. "I think the role of Fuchs has been exaggerated," Hassard said.

Historians have previously established that Bohr personally tried to convince President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill to hand over nuclear information to Moscow during the second world war in the belief that this would prevent an arms race after the war. Churchill was furious, saying that "professor Bohr ought to be confined or at any rate made to see he is very near the edge of mortal crimes."

With the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, fresh in his mind in the months after the war, Bohr



Niels Bohr

clearly still felt he was motivated by the best of intentions in agreeing to talk to the Soviets in November 1945.

According to Sudaplatov, "Bohr was nervous and his hands trembled" when he met the Russians. "But he soon controlled his emotions. Bohr understood, perhaps for the first time, that the decision that he, Fermi, Oppenheimer and Szilard had made to allow their trusted scientific proteges to share atomic secrets had led him to meet agents of the Soviet government."

When asked "do you know of any effective way of protecting oneself against an atomic bomb?" Bohr said, "The only way is to institute international control over all countries."

— The Sunday Times

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Eastern European nations, encouraged by a softer approach from Moscow and positive signals from the United States, may renew pressure on NATO to let them join the alliance soon, diplomats have said.

Fearful that Russia would oppose any extension of NATO's borders eastwards, the 16-nation alliance has been reluctant to discuss when it might join and when — although it promised earlier this year to take in new mem-

bers at some time in the future.

But diplomats said two recent events could open the way for a new debate within the alliance on the issue and renewed pressure from a host of Eastern European states keen to join.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said last week NATO might discuss the membership question next year, giving a clear signal to Moscow's former satellites that the alliance does not intend to postpone the question indefinitely.

"I want to state clearly that in my opinion NATO will be expanded and should be expanded," Mr. Clinton said in

an interview with Polish Television.

Diplomats said Russia's signing of NATO's partnership for peace scheme on closer military links last month, after much delay, was also a significant step.

"It is quite clear that we have to convince the Russians that there is no threat to them from taking on new members and we seem to be winning that argument," said one NATO diplomat.

Moscow had bitterly opposed the idea of seeing Eastern European states join its cold war foe.

But when Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev vi-

sited NATO to sign the partnership scheme, he took a softer line which surprised the alliance. While Moscow did not want any hasty expansion to NATO, Mr. Kozyrev recognised that it would happen.

Poland, which has pushed harder than any other country to join NATO as soon as possible, became the first Eastern European state to complete a detailed programme of military cooperation with the alliance on Tuesday.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Robert Mroziewicz and Deputy Defence Minister Jerzy Milewski agreed with the programme, set up

under the partnership for peace, at a ceremony in Brussels.

Both said it was designed to prepare Poland's Armed Forces, now adapting to western standards after years in the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact, for the day when the country would join NATO.

The partnership scheme, open to all former Warsaw Pact states and some other European countries, provides for joint exercises and defence planning. But it offers no security guarantees and is not an automatic ticket to future membership.

When it begins discussion

on expansion, NATO will have difficult choices to make.

Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have all expressed a desire to join. But NATO diplomats are worried that too many new members would make the alliance unwieldy.

"One question is who we choose, where we draw the line," said one diplomat. "The second question is how we convince those who are left out that they have nothing to fear, that they are not being isolated."

## Markets start to doubt major G-7 dollar package

FRANKFURT (R) — Financial markets have been bracing themselves for a dollar package supposedly cooked up in mid-June for this week's marathon round of key meetings, but hardly anybody believes it is now the time has arrived.

Last month, as the dollar plummeted against the yen and the mark, pulling European bond markets down, traders said only a combined U.S. interest-rate hike, German rate cut, and a strong statement from the Group of Seven (G-7) would save it.

But as one London bond trader put it: "The market is not anticipating the (U.S.) hike everybody is talking about."

First on the week's agenda is the U.S. Federal Open Market Committee, the policy-making arm of the Federal Reserve (FED) central bank. It completes its two-day sitting on Thursday in the European day.

The Bundesbank central council meets Thursday, with the Group of Seven assembling on Friday for a summit in Naples.

"The talk of concerted rate moves is around, but nobody seems to believe it... it doesn't seem to be a strong vein anymore, or people put it as a minority view," said Karl Haefling, head of Deuts-

che Bank Futures Options. German officials have already done their part to damp down speculation of a broad G-7 plan to strengthen the dollar.

Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt has said further German interest-rate cuts could have a negative impact on the mark.

He also made clear in a newspaper interview published Wednesday the Germans were not in favour of intervention to support the dollar. The Bundesbank had been opposed to the last round of concerted dollar buying, he said.

On Monday, German finance ministry state secretary Gert Haller told journalists he was surprised about all the excitement over the current dollar-mark rate, which was in line with long-term averages.

And, although he conceded there was a problem with the dollar/yen, which fell last week to a new record low, he indicated that this was a bilateral issue between the United States and Japan.

Separately, another senior Bonn source said this week that he did not see how any major initiatives on the dollar would be sensible.

In addition, a package no longer seems as necessary as it did two to three weeks

ago, since a fragile ceasefire has settled over bond and currency markets.

But perhaps most importantly, dealers say fresh domestic news suggest that what was, once judged, as a dollar-salvaging exercise might now be a recipe to sink it again.

Stephen Lewis, research director at London Bond Broking, said a FED decision to keep rates steady might prove painless.

"(It would suggest the FED believes) dollar weakness will blow itself out on its own," Mr. Lewis said.

Deutsche's Haefling was more blunt. "If the FED moves too quickly it could backfire. It smacks of panic, having to come in with a rescue package."

In Germany, too, there are fewer and fewer domestic reasons for a change in the discount rate, now at 4.5 per cent. Economic data suggest the recovery is taking hold, while M3 growth remains too high, although it is slackening, Mr. Haefling said.

Final May M3 money supply growth was revised down on Wednesday to 13.4 per cent from the initially reported 13.7 per cent annual rate, but remains out of sight of the Bundesbank's 1994 target zone of four to six per cent.

## AFM downgrades five losing companies

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Five loss-making state-controlled companies have been downgraded in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) while a government committee is studying means to salvage them and minimise damages.

The five companies are: The Jordan Glass Industries Company, Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing, Publishing and Distributing Company (which publishes Sawt Al Shaab newspaper), the Jordan Tourism and Spa Complex Company, the Jordan Precast Concrete Industry and the Jordan Medical Corporation.

The government or government-owned agencies control majority interests in all these companies, which were established in the 1980s. Their respective accumulated losses exceeded 75 per cent of their capital, prompting the AFM to exclude them from the trading floor.

They would be admitted back onto the floor only after they improved their financial standing to the levels

accepted by the AFM in one year. Otherwise, they will be excluded totally from the market, leading to their dismantling.

According to figures published in the local press and confirmed by sources, the total losses of the five stood at JD 22.9 million at the end of 1992 and were expected to have risen to JD 25 million by the end of 1993.

The paid up capital, assets and accumulated net losses of the five were:

- Dar Al Shaab: JD 3 million capital; JD 891,000 assets; JD 3.54 million losses.
- The Jordan Tourism and Spa Complex: JD 5.3 million capital; JD 10.5 million assets; JD 8.2 million losses.
- The Jordan Glass Industries Company: JD 9 million capital; JD 15.5 million assets; JD 6.3 million losses.
- The Jordan Medical Corporation: JD 5 million capital; JD 3.4 million assets; JD 2.03 million losses.
- The Jordan Precast Concrete Industry: JD 3.3 million capital; JD 4.26 million assets; JD 3.1 million losses.

Government sources said the Jordan Investment

Bureau, an arm of the government, was studying the status of these companies with a view to salvaging them.

One of the options available is additional capital, but economists say such an approach would not address the main problem that they see as behind the ills of the companies — bad management.

"The situation should have been addressed years ago," said Dr. Fahed Fanek, a noted economic analyst and columnist. "The government could not wait for ever to resolve their problems."

Raising additional capital "will only finance their losses and salvage the present management under the false title of additional capital or government guarantees," said Dr. Fanek.

"The first order of business is the dismissal of the present management of these companies," he told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Fanek advocates the total dismantling of the companies and the sale of their assets to private investors "who can run the facilities in a private manner."

The study of these companies is expected to be completed before the end of the year. Approaches to the five entities could vary depending on the precise nature of their ills.

"As far as possible, the government would try to salvage them if it is assured that the companies could be run profitably," said an informed source. "Otherwise, they would be sold to the private sector or even dismantled."

But it is unlikely that the

option would be to resurrect the companies with infusion of state capital, said the source. "Many experiments have failed and it is doubtful that the government would continue to give third, fourth or even fifth chances to some of the entities."

However, the government has to keep in mind the fate of the employees of the companies in whatever option it adopts. More than 400 Jordanians are employed by the five companies.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 7, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You may have to be more sensible where practical plans are concerned as Venus squares Pluto making people uneasy, stifling emotions and secrets are revealed. Be more precise in personal affairs.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Go to the right sources for information you need. Take time to visit with friends and tensions you are under and you will feel more relaxed.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You may find it difficult to handle monetary affairs early in the day but later work out fine for you in the long run. Be wise.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Radical changes may be required to gain your most cherished aims at this time. Be sure to improve your appearance to make a good impression.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Make a deep study of what is really important in your life and then go after your aims in a positive manner which will benefit you.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Friends cannot be of much help to you during the day, but can be relied upon in the evening. Much pleasure is yours tonight being with mate.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Follow every rule and

regulation which applies to you today and gain the respect of others. Be poised at all times for unexpected assignments.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Situations may not work out as fast as you would like at this time, but don't force matters, or you could get into trouble.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Compose yourself so that sudden situations today will not get the best of you. The evening can be a most happy one by being with loved ones.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Try to please others as much as possible today and avoid unpleasantness. Take time to meditate so you will have peace and contentment.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Be careful in the handling of important tasks at this time. Taking risks could bring trouble at this time which could be unpleasant.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Don't permit anyone to force you into some situation that you know is not right for you. Be poised at all times today or any procedure.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Express your fine ability when called upon to do so today and please higher-ups. Come to a fine accord with associates you work with.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 8, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The New Moon in Moonchild, conjunct the Sun is well expected providing opportunities to accomplish hard work unless we become critical and stingy. People are timid, cautious and feel inadequate.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Try to please your friends today instead of talking about personal worries. Show more consideration for the one you love.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Don't irritate a higher-up or you could have more trouble than you can handle. Show increased devotion to family members and congenial friends.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be alert to opportunities but don't jump into anything hastily. Studying old situations which need clarification brings right answers.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Use care and tact in attending to promise and gain the respect of others. A new outlet can be profitable and successful.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You have to be tactful with an association and prevent some action that could be detrimental to you both. Think constructively.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Quietly straighten out

any errors at work and avoid getting panicky. A fellow associate could be distraught so give words of encouragement.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have to be more sensible where practical matters are concerned to gain your aims at this time. Be poised to handle any predicament.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Any situations which arise today should be considered from a standpoint of how they will affect you and family members directly.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Attend to duties that must be done early in the day so you'll have time for social activities later. Be cheerful to those around you.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You need to apply yourself more now to gain your cherished wishes. Sidelstep one who will want to impose upon you.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Use good sense today, especially in the face of a possible emergency. Also, be sure to show thoughtfulness for others.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Carry through with original plans even though you may be limited in some way. Use diplomacy in your business dealings with associates.

## Group of Seven leaders to try to create new jobs

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton and fellow leaders of the industrial world this week will explore ways to put the more than 20 million people unemployed in their nations back to work — and in the process save their own jobs.

"Our first job is to create jobs and to develop the high-tech workforce to fill them," Mr. Clinton told business and labour leaders Tuesday before setting off for the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations summit in Naples, Italy.

With the G-7 set of enjoy its best economic times in years, Mr. Clinton and fellow leaders from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan want to make sure that the expected upswing translates into more work for their citizens.

That means not only using their July 8-10 summit to discuss such broad economic issues as interest rates, budget deficits and the dollar, but getting into the nitty gritty of how jobs are created as well.

"In the past, the summits have focused largely on (broad) macro-economic issues, but now we increasingly will be looking also

at micro-economic and structural issues such as employment," U.S. Undersecretary of State Joan Spero, one of the "sherpas" who helped prepare this week's summit, said.

Those "micro" issues range from minimum wage laws and government-mandated employee benefits that discourage firms from taking on more workers to training programmes to help the unemployed win new jobs.

"To the best of my knowledge, no group of advanced nations ever in all of human history has ever tried to work together in common on these problems, the problems of ordinary citizens that lie behind the complex statistics we read about in the newspapers every day," Mr. Clinton said.

Those complex statistics, for the most part, have been grim reading. Unemployment in the G-7 has leapt higher since the turn of the decade and is projected to average 7.4 per cent this year.

The problem is most acute in Europe where Germany, France, Italy and Britain all face unemployment rates

near or above 10 per cent. Canada is the same situation, while the United States and Japan are relatively better off.

The fear in Europe is that much of the unemployment there is "structural" due to labour market rigidities, and won't go away as the region's budding economic recovery gathers steam.

"What is a European rigidity?" asked Michael Aho, an economist at New York broker Prudential Securities. "It's the high cost of hiring and firing, and it's a social safety net... why would you hire someone if you have to give him a year or a year and a half employment at full pay?"

European leaders have tried to tackle the problem — but with limited success. The French government was forced this year to suspend a proposed cut in the legal minimum wage of young workers after fierce protests from students.

The United States has accounted for the bulk of the jobs created in the G-7 over the past year — adding 3.5 million since Mr. Clinton took office last year. But Washington can't afford to relax

## Conference calls for consumer awareness

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Experts feel that consumer awareness of products is what is important and it is the duty of all concerned authorities to educate the public on the quality determining factors of products.

A three-day conference held in Amman on the quality of products with regard to consumer and environmental policies debated the question: "Is there a safe market for environmentally safe products globally and nationally?"

The meeting recommended declaring an international day to protect consumers. It also called for estab-

lishing an economic and legislative research centre specialised in consumption and environment, and "if possible, to introduce these topics in the educational system in the country."

The 60 experts who attended the conference also suggested that a permanent Arab committee be set up to work on providing information on consumption.

Participants also saw an urgent need to protect consumers and increase public awareness of the need to protect the environment.

The recommendations also called for establishing a network to exchange information in the European market to distinguish good products from bad.

The meeting also called for legal and technical measures to avoid producing products that could be harmful to humans and the environment.

The conference, which was organised by the University of Jordan and the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium in cooperation with the Legal Institute of the University of Coimbra in Portugal, was designed to discuss the quality of products with regard to consumer and environmental policies: legal aspects and practical actions.

The meeting was prepared in conjunction with the Coimbra University and financed by the European Union.

## Turkish plan stabilises markets

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's austerity package announced on April 5 has stabilised financial markets in the past three months but at the cost of extensive layoffs and deep stagnation in industry, economic figures show.

"Stabilising markets and establishing fiscal balances were the major goals of the past three months," Aykon Dogan, state minister for the economy, has told a business meeting.

The plan envisaged tightening money and credit, rebuilding foreign reserves, reducing real wages, and privatising or closing state firms to

cut public spending and investment.

Mr. Dogan said the government aimed to increase production and exports in the second three-month phase of the package.

The treasury's high three-month interest rates, now declining after reaching a record annual peak of 200 per cent in May, curbed flight from the weak lira. The rate are now around 110 per cent, still high compared to 80 per cent in 1993.

Monthly inflation, which jumped to over 24 per cent in May due to April's price hikes, fell to 0.9 per cent last

month — the lowest since January 1992.

High depreciation of the lira in the first three months slowed imports, raising the export/import ratio to 70 per cent. The ratio had fallen to under 50 per cent in 1993.

The central bank raised its foreign currency reserves to \$4.2 billion from \$3 billion in early April.

Thanks to tightened state spending and new one-off taxes, the consolidated budget gave a surplus of two trillion lira (\$64 million) in April-May after a deficit of 30 trillion lira (\$1.6 billion) in the first three months.

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

**MARRIAGE COUNSELOR**

"My mother never hugged me. Dad didn't like her flirting with other men."

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KELLN  
GADE  
CORTER  
BECKED

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SAILOR WHO MISSED HIS SHIP?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: HE WAS " " " " " "

Jumbles: LEAVE RAINY JETSAM SAVAGE  
Answer: How the photographer achieved positive results — WITH NEGATIVES

**Peanuts**

THIS IS MY REPORT ON HAMLET...  
A HAMLET IS A SMALL VILLAGE WITH A POPULATION OF MAYBE A FEW HUNDRED, AND...  
MA'AM?  
FAR AND AWAY, SIR, ONE OF THE GREAT TRIES OF ALL TIME!  
I CAN'T STAND IT...

**Andy Capp**

THE REF HASN'T TURNED UP YET! OKAY WITH THE MISSUS IF YOU FILL IN?  
MY MISSUS? LOOK, MATE, I'M A BLOKE WHO'S BOSS IN HIS OWN HOME—  
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'VE FORGOT IT!  
A BLOKE WHO SAYS THAT PROBABLY COULDN'T TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT SIDE DECISIONS, EITHER.

**Mutt'n'Jeff**

THAT FINISHES IT! I'M NOT GOING INTO TOWN ANYMORE! I'VE LOST EVERYTHING! EVEN MY CAR IS GONE!  
YOUR CAR IS GONE? WHAT HAPPENED?  
I STUCK MY HAND OUT TO SIGNAL FOR A LEFT TURN AND A GUY SWIPES MY WATCH RIGHT OFF MY ARM!  
SO I STICK MY HEAD OUT TO SEE WHO HAD TAKEN IT, AND A GUY SWIPES MY HIGH SILK HAT!  
I CHASE THE GUY AND WHEN I GET BACK MY CAR IS GONE! THE COPS ARE HOLDING IT UNTIL I PAY A \$50 FINE FOR PARKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET!  
WELL, PAY THE FINE AND YOU'LL GET IT BACK!  
I WILL NOT! THAT GALLOPY ANT WORTH FIFTY BUCKS NOW!

**THE Daily Crossword** by Joan D. Berberich

ACROSS  
1 Placid body, tense  
5 The one designated  
9 Elevate  
14 Newspaper section, briefly  
15 Elusive  
16 Mishap  
17 Cupid  
18 George  
20 Part of D.D.S.  
22 Birthright suffer  
23 Direction letters  
24 Soup—don't mess with it  
25 Country mail letters  
27 Repair  
29 — Happy —  
35 Catch one's breath  
36 — girl  
37 Banished sound  
38 Tushingham  
39 Ham  
40 "Waxed" cheese  
41 DM  
42 At that time  
44 — Side —  
46 Greek peak  
47 Person addressed  
48 See  
49 "Cakes and..."  
52 Division word  
55 Take umbrella  
59 — Boy —  
62 Musical group  
63 Loosen  
64 Tel. Maltese  
65 — Kne  
66 "Nightmare"  
68 Player's place  
69 Author Ayn  
70 Sammie's  
Margaret  
DOWN  
1 Pleasant  
2 Passed-down wisdom  
3 Line — set of bricks  
4 — Test —  
5 Inventor Nikola  
6 Chop down  
7 Toward shelter  
8 Musical chairs  
9 Snub  
10 Schedule abbr.  
11 Golf club  
12 Broadcast  
13 See eagle  
15 Violent one  
16 Connector  
21 — Decadal —  
27 Parabolic's state  
28 — Park, Colo.  
29 He-man  
30 Water animal  
31 Hard-headed  
32 Takes on cargo  
33 Tropical vine  
34 Pool-box contents  
35 Bring into harmony  
45 Ready for the weather  
46 Crude mineral  
48 Apprehension  
49 Floor cover, in England  
51 Words by Caesar  
53 Six day item  
54 Russian saint  
59 Australian  
60 Sister  
61 Pigeon  
60 Car  
61 Saviour

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS  
1 Placid body, tense  
5 The one designated  
9 Elevate  
14 Newspaper section, briefly  
15 Elusive  
16 Mishap  
17 Cupid  
18 George  
20 Part of D.D.S.  
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37 Banished sound  
38 Tushingham  
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40 "Waxed" cheese  
41 DM  
42 At that time  
44 — Side —  
46 Greek peak  
47 Person addressed  
48 See  
49 "Cakes and..."  
52 Division word  
55 Take umbrella  
59 — Boy —  
62 Musical group  
63 Loosen  
64 Tel. Maltese  
65 — Kne  
66 "Nightmare"  
68 Player's place  
69 Author Ayn  
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49 Floor cover, in England  
51 Words by Caesar  
53 Six day item  
54 Russian saint  
59 Australian  
60 Sister  
61 Pigeon  
60 Car  
61 Saviour

July 10, 1994

Belgian Franc	1.3600	1.3600
Per 100		
Other Currencies		
	Date: 6/7/1994	
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8700	1.8220
Lebanese Lira	0.040235	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1831	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3270	2.3880
Qatari Riyal	0.1867	0.1877
Egyptian Pound	0.2010	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7680	1.7840
UAE Dirham	0.1867	0.1877
Greek Drachma	0.2595	0.3005
Cypriot Pound	1.3315	1.4350

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3863/73	Canadian dollar
	1.5764/74	Deutschmarks
	1.7690/00	Dutch guilders
	1.3227/32	Swiss francs
	32.53/59	Belgian francs
	5.4085/35	French francs
	1572.6/4.1	Italian lire
	98.19/29	Japanese yen
	7.8625/25	Swedish crowns
	6.9070/20	Norwegian crowns
	6.1940/90	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5434/44	
One ounce of gold	\$385.085/386.15	

**TOKYO (AFP) —** Further signs of the dramatic impact of the strength of the yen on Japanese consumer and industrial trends emerged Wednesday as the dollar continued to fall and closed at a new low point here.

The Japan Automobile Importers Association said sales

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**COUNTRY'S NAME**

TRADE NOTICE IN	PRICE PER SHARE	OFFERING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
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ARAB BANK	114,000	184.00	184.00	184.00
ARAB BANKING BANK	10,167	7.90	7.90	7.90
BANK OF JORDAN	43,846	4.92	4.93	4.923
NICOLA JORDAN	1,000	7.60	7.60	7.60
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	50,787	2.94	2.94	2.915
JORDANIAN BANKING	20,000	2.94	2.94	2.915
JORDAN KIBLAT BANK	23,143	3.93	3.93	3.93
JORDANIAN BANKING	1,000	3.93	3.93	3.93
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	57,874	3.81	3.710	3.780
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	39,895	1.740	1.740	1.700
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1,000	1.740	1.740	1.700
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	467	3.600	3.550	3.550
ARABIA INSURANCE	1,000	3.600	3.550	3.550
YAMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	500	3.600	3.550	3.550
MOJIB INSURANCE	1,000	3.600	3.550	3.550
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	37,896	1.640	1.625	1.635
MOJIB ELECTRIC POWER	1,000	1.640	1.625	1.635
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	7,791	3.550	3.550	3.550
JORDANIAN PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1,000	3.550	3.550	3.550
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	10,070	0.875	0.910	0.910
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	1,000	0.875	0.910	0.910
ARAB PETRO. PIP. INVESTMENT & BROKERAGE	18,101	0.780	0.840	0.840
JORDANIAN PETROLEUM ENTERPRISE HOLDING	1,000	0.780	0.840	0.840
THE JORDANIAN CEMENT FACTORIES	37,643	2.710	2.700	2.700
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	2.710	2.700	2.700
THE ARAB PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	451	9.900	9.620	9.620
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	9.900	9.620	9.620
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	9,900	6.400	6.120	6.250
ARAB PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	6.400	6.120	6.250
ARAB PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	11,127	6.395	6.250	6.250
ARAB PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	6.395	6.250	6.250
SPINNING & WEAVING	6,703	2.700	2.490	2.490
ARAB PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	187,414	2.490	2.490	2.490
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	9,203	1.450	1.710	1.885
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1,000	1.450	1.710	1.885
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	848	1.010	0.980	1.030
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	9,203	2.350	2.320	2.320
NATIONAL PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	6,115	0.940	0.940	0.940
INTERNATIONAL PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	9,203	2.840	2.800	2.800
INTERNATIONAL PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,000	2.840	2.800	2.800
INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	5,075	5.950	5.810	5.800
INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1,000	5.950	5.810	5.800
JORDANIAN INDUSTRIES & TRADING/INDUSTRY	957	0.890	0.870	0.870
JORDANIAN INDUSTRIES & TRADING/INDUSTRY	1,000	0.890	0.870	0.870
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2,275	6.550	6.450	6.450
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1,000	6.550	6.450	6.450
ARAB CENTER FOR PETRO. & CHEMICALS	4,768	2.840	2.810	2.800
ARAB CENTER FOR PETRO. & CHEMICALS	1,000	2.840	2.810	2.800
UNIVERSAL MINERAL INDUSTRIES	51,980	4.800	4.700	4.720
UNIVERSAL MINERAL INDUSTRIES	1,756	2.600	2.300	2.330

**GRAND TOTAL 900,607**

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET

66649

1,021,848

of imported motor vehicles surged 42.9 per cent from a year earlier to 29,725 units in June, encouraged by the strong yen and hitting a re-

The latest increase, on top of a 48.4 per cent jump in May, marked seven months of uninterrupted growth and helped boost sales in the six months to June by 40.3 per cent to 137,966 units, a new record for the first half.

The association said sales of all imported cars, trucks and buses — including those made by Japanese manufacturers abroad — stood at an all-time high of 6.7 per cent of the local market.

"The higher appreciation of the yen considerably encouraged importers to sell foreign cars in Japan," an association official said, predicting that the upward-trend of imported car sales would

Sales of imported vehicles made by foreign manufacturers stood at 20,791 units while sales of vehicles made by Japanese carmakers amounted to 8,034.

The association official said, however, that the yen's continued surge might be a drag on economic recovery, depressing potential buyers

"In the long term, we can't fully welcome a plunge in the dollar," he said.

**Japanese manufacturers of construction machinery meanwhile said they were shifting more of their production from Japan to the United States to counter the adverse impact of the stronger Japanese currency.**

A spokesman for Kobe Steel Ltd. said his company planned to transfer production of hydraulic excavators destined for export to the United States to a construction machinery unit in Geor-

But production for other export markets would remain in Japan, he said.

Kobe Steel expects to export 260 hydraulic excavators from Japan to the United States in the current fiscal year ending in March.

Komatsu Ltd., the country's biggest maker of construction machinery, also plans to boost output of hydraulic excavators in the United States.

**Hitachi Construction**

Machinery Co. Ltd. meanwhile plans to increase its hydraulic excavator production at a joint venture with Deere and Co. in North Carolina by 11.1 per cent to 2,000 units this year, a spokesman said.

# Russians queue for dollars as rouble slumps

**MOSCOW (R)** — Russians queued to buy dollars in Moscow Wednesday as the rouble crashed below 2,000 to the U.S. currency on the city's currency exchange.

"I just heard the new rate on the radio," said Alexei, standing in line at Tepkobank which sold dollars at 2,025 roubles. "Maybe it's psychological, but I want to buy my \$100 now at around 2,000, when it is still easy to calculate."

It's fun. Once a year we don't have to use calculators. Last summer the rouble was 1,000 to the dollar. Now it's

The rouble traded at a record low of 2,008 roubles on the Moscow's Interbank Currency Exchange Wednesday, down from 1,898 on Tuesday.

Banks quoted the rouble slightly below that in inter-bank trade, where most foreign exchange transactions take place.

The Russian central bank allows the rouble to fall by about five per cent against the dollar every month. But bankers say the rouble is

The State Statistics Committee has put June inflation at 4.8 per cent. Deputy Prime

The rouble, not fully con-

vertible on world markets, first fell below the 1,000 level on May 31 last year, trading at 1,024 per dollar. It has been falling ever since.

The Russian currency's latest slide came despite the dollar's own recent slide to all-time lows against the yen. Russians still find the dollar the safest bet against infla-

"The fall will continue, no doubt. Why should I lose thousands of roubles due to inflation when I can buy dollars. And why should I lose

But bankers said demand

from commercial banks for dollars on the interbank market was limited. They complained that the central bank was letting the rouble fall too

**fast.**  
**"There are no special reasons for a fall of 10 roubles per session," said Mikhail Zabolotsky of Toko-**

bank. "Banks buy dollars, but in small volumes. It looks as though somebody from the central bank is playing the cash market."

Vladimir Rayevsky of Neftekhimbank said a 10-point rouble fall was a surprise, noting that the currency usually slips one or two points a day.

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## Bulgaria condemn Mexico to cruel exit

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — Bulgaria, who only squeezed into the World Cup thanks to a dramatic last-gasp win, reached the last eight for the first time in their history Tuesday by beating Mexico on penalties.

The Bulgarians took the penalty shoot-out 3-1 after the teams had finished 1-1 at the end of 120 minutes of play.

Backed by the vast majority of the 70,000-strong crowd, the Mexicans lost their nerve in the shoot-out and their first three players failed to convert their kicks.

Bulgarian captain Borislav Mihailov emerged as his team's hero, saving penalties from Marcelino Bernal and Jorge Rodriguez after Mexican Alberto Garcia, who had netted from the spot during the game, blazed over the bar.

Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos saved from Bulgaria's Krasimir Balakov but had no chance with kicks from Boncho Genchev, Daniel Borimirov and the clincher from Yordan Lechkov.

"I did not have any particular strategy. I was just looking at the foot of the player taking the kicks," Mihailov said of his saves.

"God was a Bulgarian today," was the explanation of striker Hristo Stoichkov.

Bulgaria specialise in nail-biting wins, having scored in the last minute of their final qualifying match last November to eliminate France.

They had never won a match at five previous World Cup finals but have now won three in a row, a run which sets them up for a quarterfinal clash with champions Germany Sunday.

Referee under fire

This second round game was blighted by poor re-

fereeing by Syrian Jamal Al Sharif who sent off two men from each side, cautioned a further six and awarded the Mexicans a hotly disputed penalty.

"We thought the referee was biased by the presence of 70,000 Mexicans in the crowd," said Mihailov. "I have to assure you there was no penalty and the expulsion of our player was unjustified."

The disputed penalty was awarded in the 18th minute after Emil Kremenliev tangled with Luis Alves Zague, and the same Bulgarian defender was dismissed early in the second-half for his second bookable offence.

"I was very surprised. I don't think he used good judgment," said Kremenliev. "He made a lot of mistakes."

Sharif also sent off Mexico's Luis Garcia soon afterwards, forcing both sides to play for more than an hour with 10 men as the match spilled over into extra time.

In three matches at the tournament, the official has booked a total of 19 players.

Mexican coach Miguel Mejia Baron refused to enter the debate. "I have never questioned referees before and this is not the time to start doing it," he said.

Mihailov described the moment of victory as "the happiest of my life."

"This is the greatest success ever for Bulgarian soccer, tactically we played it the best possible way."

The result was a particular disappointment for Mexico's flamboyant goalkeeper Jorge Campos who made a brilliant save from Bulgaria's first penalty by Balakov.

He lay slumped in his goalmouth for a long time after Yordan Lechkov had decided the outcome, but eventually rose to his feet to be consoled by Bulgarian goalscorer Stoichkov.



Above, Bulgaria's Emil Kostadinov (L) is tackled by Mexico's Luis Garcia during their World Cup second round game Tuesday at Giants Stadium. At the end of regulation time the two teams were tied 1-1. Below, Bulgaria's Emil Kremenliev holds his face after he received a red card and was ejected from the match (AFP photos)

### Bulgaria tough, but beatable

CHICAGO (AP) — Bulgaria will be a tough quarterfinal opponent for the defending World Cup champion, but German players and coaches expect to clear the hurdle.

Speaking after Bulgaria's penalty shoot-out victory over Mexico Tuesday, assistant coach Rainer said it was better for the Germans to play against a European team.

"But it will be a tough job, we must not underestimate them, even if they had to play extra time today," he said.



## Mexicans celebrate even in defeat

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexicans celebrated even in defeat Tuesday, as about 15,000 soccer fans gathered at a downtown Monument following Mexico's 3-1 loss to Bulgaria in World Cup soccer.

Adan Gonzalez, 17, sat glumly at the base of the Angel of Independence monument, wrapped in a Mexican flag.

"We have to support them, we are Mexicans," he said. "Good or bad, we are with them."

But as more and more people gathered at Mexico City's symbolic centre, spirits rose with cheers for the Mexican team.

People waved flags, chanted "Mexico," wore giant sombreros and painted their faces in red, white and green, the colours of the Mexican flag at the Angel, the 12-story monument to Mexican independence.

Laura Hernandez, 32, brought her two young sons to celebrate.

"No, it's not as fun as if they had won," Hernandez said. "But just to pass into the second round is an achievement."

Mexico City police said they were prepared for a riot after the destruction caused June 28, the Mexican team's previous game. Mayor Manuel Aguilar promised there would be no repeat of previous soccer riots.

Three people were killed at least 150 injured during giant street celebrations by 150,000 revelers toasting Mexico's advance to the second round of the World Cup.

This time, however, the crowd was relatively peaceful. Red Cross worker Guillermo Garcia said no injuries were reported.

Mexico and Bulgaria were tied 1-1 after 90 minutes of regulation time. Bulgaria won the game on penalty Kicks, and will now face defending champion Germany in the quarterfinals.

Many questioned coach Miguel Mejia Baroun's reluctance to substitute players late in the second half and in extra time. Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari issued a statement criticising Mejia.

"Maybe if we had reinforced our forwards when Luis Garcia was expelled, we would have had more opportunities," he said.

But speaking to reporters, Mejia Baron defended himself.

"I saw that we were controlling the game," he said. "I thought that making a change would run the risk of disorienting the team."

In Mexico City, some one hundred riot police stood guard with helmets and shields around the Angel, along with 30 foot police, 40 mounted police, patrol cars, two trucks and ambulances.

The American Embassy nearby was barricaded, and music stages had been set up to entertain the crowd. Helicopters flew over the area, and 500 motorcycle police patrolled major streets in groups of about 45.

Authorities said 24,000 police were mobilised, and sales of alcohol were banned all day.

## Iordanescu to bring Romania back down to earth

ARCADIA, California (R) — His players have beaten Argentina, experienced the greatest day in their soccer history and celebrated into the early hours in a disco. They have even been given a day off from training.

Now Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu says his hardest job before Sunday's quarterfinal with Sweden in Paoli Alto is to bring his men "back down to earth again."

Iordanescu told reporters at the squad's final news conference before flying to San Francisco, "that is my first objective this week."

"When you reach this stage of the World Cup you start to dream, all the teams left in now are entitled to dream, but this is the worst time to waste what you have achieved. You have to carry on working very, very hard."

Iordanescu also said Florin Raducioiu, suspended from playing in Sunday's second round 3-2 win over Argentina, would win an immediate recall for the match against Sweden.

"Even though we won, we felt his absence and missed him," he said. The player most likely to lose his place is defender Gheorghe Mihali who replaced Raducioiu on the team-sheet, although Iordanescu played him in a defensive role rather than in the attacking position the AC Milan striker fills.

Romania and Sweden will be meeting for the second time in four weeks Sunday.

On June 12, five days before the World Cup began, they drew 1-1 in a low-key friendly on a high-school field in Mission Viejo, but Iordanescu said the relevance of that game to Sunday's quarterfinal was minimal.

"Two games are never alike, and of course that first match ended in a 1-1 draw and that can't happen on Sunday. The only thing for sure about Sunday is that the team that makes fewest mistakes will win."

## Brazil will take the win — art comes later

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Brazil wanted a stylish victory over the United States that would show the team was back to its flamboyant best.

In the end, it settled for a win, period.

Brazil's 1-0 victory over the United States Monday was gutsy, hard-fought and dramatic. It gave the Brazilians a berth in the quarterfinals against the Netherlands. But it fell short of the artistic show fans have come to expect — nay, demand.

The criticism this time came from a source from within: Star striker Romario. "The team won with poor soccer," Romario said after the game. "We were bad technically."

"With the players we have, we need to be much better if we don't want to go through the kind of suffocation we went through today," he said.

Back in Brazil, "suffocation" and "scare" were used often to describe the Fourth of July Independence Day game at Stanford Stadium.

Although the Brazilians controlled the offensive action, they were stymied by the blockade devised by the Americans' Yugoslav-born coach Bora Milutinovic. The U.S. team packed the mid-field and defence with nine outfield players, leaving only Ernie Stewart on the attack.

"They simply didn't want to play soccer with Brazil," said Brazilian assistant coach Mario Zagalo. "Our domination was total, but penetration was difficult."

In the 43rd minute, Brazilian defender Leonardo was sent off for a vicious elbow to the left temple of midfielder Tab Ramos. The American suffered a skull fracture and was taken to Stanford Medical Centre for observation.

Leonardo faces possible suspension by FIFA, soccer's governing body. The issue was to be discussed by FIFA's disciplinary committee at its regular biweekly session Wednesday.

Brazil, playing 10 against 11, threw its artistic concerns out the window.

"As soon as we were one we were one man down, we had to leave the technical aside and play with our hearts," Romario said.

In the second half, Brazil continued to dominate, and still could not score. The Fourth-of-July crowd came alive with chants of "U-S-A, U-S-A."

Nightmare scenarios began to build.

Would it be a repeat of the 1990 World Cup? Brazil also was dominating then in its second-round game against Argentina. But on a lone counterattack, the Argentines scored and sent Brazil home with a 1-0 defeat.

What if the game went to a penalty-kick tiebreaker? There was the ghost of the 1986 World Cup, when Brazil outplayed France in the quarterfinals but squandered scoring chances — ace midfielder Romario missed a penalty shot — and was eliminated in the shootout.

"There were a few of them looking at each other and concerned about the way things were going," U.S. forward Roy Wegerle said.

It lasted until the 74th minute. Romario made a solo run through the U.S. defence from midfield and served Bebeto breaking in from the right. His shot slid through a minuscule gap between defender Alexi Lalas and diving goalkeeper Tony Meola.

When U.S. defender Fernando Clavijo was ejected in the 86th minute after earning his second yellow card, it was over.

"It was a victory of guts and determination," said Zagalo.

Coach Carlos Alberto Pereira chose to praise the U.S. team, which has now lost all its six matches to Brazil by a combined score of 13-3.

"There was nothing inexperienced about the American team. They've got players who played in Europe and all over the world, and there was no shame in it being such a close game."

Well, maybe not. But Brazil will have to show more to satisfy its demanding fans and take home its fourth World Cup.

Take it from Romario. "The only reason we won was guts," he said. "We have to play better. We need a little more from each player."

## Violence abroad breaks World Cup calm

NAPLES (R) — Italian's joy over their soccer team's 2-1 victory over Nigeria was marred when a 15-year-old boy who fired a pistol in celebration accidentally killed his seven-year-old cousin, police said.

Police said Salvatore Oliva died in hospital after he was hit by a bullet in the heart in the town of Herculaneum, near Naples, Tuesday night.

The pistol was fired by his cousin. Police had earlier said the dead boy's uncle, Domenico Giampaglia, had fired the gun.

They said the uncle, who had a permit for the gun, had been accused of lax custody of a firearm for not having kept it out of the reach of the children.

Italians from the Alps to Sicily danced in the streets, jumped into fountains and set off fireworks to celebrate the thrilling victory which kept their World Cup hopes alive.

In Brazil and the Netherlands, rampaging fans have reminded soccer's rulers that hooliganism still afflicts the game despite the relative absence of trouble at the World Cup.

Middle America, long suspicious of soccer as a sport surrounded by thugs and lunatics, may so far have seen only capacity crowds enjoying trouble-free matches at USA '94.

But the news from abroad has been the same as ever, with tales of football fever in

distant lands.

"Soccer is simply paying the price for being such a popular sport," said FIFA press officer Andreas Herren Tuesday, shrugging off any suggestion that violence abroad might be overshadowing the tournament.

Fans in Brazil and the Netherlands battled with police Monday after their teams set up a quarterfinals clash.

"An enormous crowd had gathered in the centre (of the Hague), making it difficult to get the mob under control," a Dutch police spokesman said Tuesday. Fifty Dutch supporters were arrested in the city.

The Dutch, who play Brazil in Dallas Saturday, had earlier beaten Ireland 2-0 in Orlando.

Brazilian police said more than 50 people were hurt and more than 30 arrested in clashes in the southern city of Curitiba and the central-eastern city of Uberlandia.

The fans, celebrating Brazil's 1-0 win over the United States in California, hurled stones and bottles at police, who responded with gas and baton charges.

The murder of a player in Colombia Saturday, apparently for conceding an own goal that contributed to his country's early exit from the World Cup, was by far the most horrific incident to overshadow the tournament.

Americans, who tuned into the Brazil game in record

numbers, have had plenty of other examples of soccer-related madness to contemplate as well.

In Sweden last month, a woman stabbed her partner dead with a pair of scissors after he forced her to stay awake in the early hours for a World Cup match.

After the killing, the woman fell asleep. Two other Swedes who had been drinking with the man were so engrossed by the match that they did not notice what had happened.

A Romanian farmer stabbed and wounded seven passers-by in a street dispute sparked by Romania's historic 3-2 win over former champions Argentina in the second round.

A 43-year-old Argentine man died of a heart attack in the northern city of Resistencia after Romania scored their third goal, a local news agency reported.

In Norway, an angry fan threw his television set into the street from the window of third-floor flat after Italy beat Norway 1-0 in a first-round match.

An Albanian soccer fan may not be seeing his wife any more either after a true attack of the World Cup fever.

Short of cash for gambling, he bet his wife on the outcome of Bulgaria's match against Argentina and lost.

His wife promptly disappeared with the winner.

## Life without Van Basten and Gullit not so bleak

ORLANDO (R) — The Dutch World Cup squad took a well-earned day off Tuesday as they contemplated the prospect that life without Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit may not be so bleak as they thought.

Monday's 2-0 win over Ireland carried the Netherlands to the quarterfinals for the first time since the golden days in 1974 and 1978 when they finished as losing finalists.

More importantly, a compelling, all-round performance in which Dennis Bergkamp led by example showed at last that the Dutch are not just title contenders on paper but on the field as well.

Van Basten's career-threatening ankle injury and Gullit's highly publicised walkout just before the finals looked likely to leave the Dutch team without the leaders capable of making the men from the lowlands scale the heights of success.

An unimpressive and tricky passage through Group F seemed to confirm the view that the Dutch were a little short of true class but the Irish match changed all that.

Trainer Dick Advocaat, who would naturally have liked both of the missing stars

on his squad, was highly delighted with his new-found team.

"We are very satisfied that we have also played most of the last two years without both Gullit and Van Basten," he said.

Gullit played in just three World Cup qualifying matches before he quit the side in an earlier disagreement with Advocaat over tactics and Van Basten appeared in only two before his injury.

In their absence, the clockwork orange machine has certainly not run down and Bergkamp is the man who is winding it up.

The blond forward struck for his second goal in as many matches Monday, taking his tally to 21 in 35 games for his country.

The 25-year-old Inter Milan player used to prefer to get his goals on darting runs from midfield but these days he is leading the attack from a centre-forward position and doing it with style and relish.

But the blossoming Dutch team who take on World Cup favourites Brazil in a daunting test in Dallas Saturday are much more than just a vehicle for Bergkamp's skills.

Despite criticism of his lack

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## Kingdom's soccer season kicks off

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's 1994 soccer season kicked off Wednesday with the commencement of the second, third and fourth division championships in which 145 teams are taking part, hoping to advance their standings and reach the prestigious first division which includes the Kingdom top 12 teams.

The Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) also announced that the rest of the season's competitions would begin next month. Al Ramtha will play Al Arabi in the opening match of the first division Aug. 18.

The first division groups champions Al Faisali, runners-up Al Wihdat, Al Hussein, Al Qadisiyah, Al Ahli, Al Arabi, Al Ramtha, Al Jazireh, and newcomers Al Karmel, Shabab Al Hussein, Al Jeel, and Kufroum.

Al Fuhais, Sahab, Al Baqaa, and Yarmouk Amman were relegated upon the completion of the 1993 championship in April and will play in the second division.

The JSF also announced the preliminary schedule of the Federation Cup which begins Aug. 5 and in which only first division teams will be taking part.

The competing teams have been divided into two groups: Titleholders Al Ramtha, Al Wihdat, Kufroum, Al Arabi, Al Ahli and Al Faisali are in group 1. Runners-up Al Qadisiyah, Al Hussein, Al Jazireh, Al Karmel, Shabab Al Hussein and Al Jeel are in group 2. The top teams of each group will face off for the trophy.

Sixteen teams will be competing in the second division at the end of which only four teams will be promoted to the first division.

The third division is made up of 31 teams which have been divided into four groups. The top four teams will be promoted to the second division.

The fourth division includes the highest number of teams — 98 — which have been divided into 25 groups. Also the top four teams will be promoted to the third division.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### U.S. loss makes for American television record

NEW YORK (R) — The Independence Day World Cup clash between the United States and Brazil was seen by more American television viewers than any other soccer match, the ABC network reported Tuesday. ABC officials said preliminary figures from the country's 30 leading television markets showed Brazil's 1-0 win over the hosts Monday garnered a 10.4 rating. A comparable figure when the full national ratings are available July 14 would mean the second-round match was watched in about 10 million U.S. households. The previous record was the June 26 broadcast of Romania's 1-0 victory over the United States in the first round. "This vindicates what ABC has always said. This is one of the great sporting events in the world," ABC spokesman Mark Mandel said.

#### Dutch are best attacking team

DALLAS (R) — The Netherlands, and not favourites Brazil, are the most exciting of the eight sides left in the World Cup, according to the official statistics. The Dutch, who face Brazil in Saturday's quarterfinal in Dallas, have had 80 shots at goal in their four matches, but are struggling to convert their chances into goals. Brazil rank only fifth among the quarterfinalists, with 63 shots, but they boast one goal more than the Dutch. Spain, who are joint-highest scorers with Sweden, on five, have a far higher ratio of shots on target than the Dutch. Of 62 shots at goal in four games, 32 have been on target, compared with the Dutch whose aim has been true only on 28 occasions. But the Dutch boast a greater depth of attacking talent, with four players — Dennis Bergkamp, Wim Jonk, Ronald Koeman and Brian Roy — all shooting in double figures and three of them scoring, while Brazil have only two, Romario and Bebeto, and Spain rely heavily on Fernando Hierro and Juan Golkoetxea.

#### Ramos out for 3 months

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. (R) — U.S. midfielder Tab Ramos suffered a fractured skull from an elbow by Brazil's Leonardo in their second-round World Cup clash and will be out of soccer for three months, a team spokesman said Tuesday. Dean Linke said Ramos spent the night at a hospital near San Francisco and was discharged Tuesday. He was returning to the U.S. team's training camp here in southern California. "He will have another CAT scan tomorrow and will undergo tests Thursday," Linke told reporters. "He's out from three to six months." Ramos, who helped his club team Real Betis win promotion to the Spanish first division last season, had a fracture above the left ear. At first the U.S. team said Ramos, carted off the pitch clutching his head, had suffered a second-stage concussion from a blow to the left temple.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI  
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#### SLIPPING ONE PAST DECLARER

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♠ K Q 8 4

♥ J 10 9 8

♦ A K 6

♣ 7 2

EAST

♠ J 9 7

♥ 6 4

♦ Q 9 7 5 4 2

♣ A 3

SOUTH

♠ 10 5 3 2

♥ K 5 2

♦ 10

♣ K Q J 9 4

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠

Pass 2 ♠ Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

Bridge columns do a disservice to the

perceptions. The perception of many

players is that all the excitement

occurs on game or slam hands.

no the partial is relegated to second-

class enthusiasm. However, many of

the most exciting battles across the

green baize occur below game level.

South almost had the values for a

game try once North could raise

er's suit and the poor quality of the trump suit caused South to adopt a conservative approach. Indeed, it was the latter flaw that allowed the defenders to prevail.

West's lead of the eight of clubs is the modern style. To distinguish between suits where the opening leader holds high cards and poor holdings, the defender leads fourth-best from a good suit and second-best from rubbish.

East rose with the ace of clubs at trick one and had no problem finding the shift to the six of hearts. Declarer played low, West won the queen, cashed the ace and continued with a third heart. East ruffed and reverted to a club, won in the closed hand.

Declarer tried to draw trumps, but West hopped up with the ace immediately and led another heart. Since dummy had to follow, East's ruff with the jack of trumps was the setting trick.

Note the problem East would have had at trick two had West led a low club. There would have been no way for the defender to know for sure that it was right to shift to a heart rather than continue with clubs.

## 1994 women's basketball championship starts today

By Aileen Baannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) will have its hands full this week as the 1994 women's basketball championship and the third division tournament will commence.

Although 7 teams had initially registered to play in this year's women's championship, only three teams will be competing for the trophy — titleholders Al Jazireh, former champions Al Orthodoxi and Abu Nusair.

Former competitors Al Ahli and Homentmen declined to play this season, while newcomers Al Watani and Al Husun pulled out before the announcement of the schedule.

Abu Nusair will take Al Jazireh in the opening match of the championship Thursday evening at Al Orthodoxi court.

Meanwhile, five teams will be competing in the third division championship: Anjarah, Deir Abi Sa'id, Al Jeel, Al Fuhais and Al Mazar, while Al Alia and Mafraq pulled out of the competition. Only the winner of the tournament will be promoted to the second division.

The JBF had hoped that this year's women's championship would group the biggest ever number of competing teams providing a valid chance for regrouping the women's national team which last competed in 1983.

Players also hoped that the newly formed JBF would give more attention to women's teams, especially with the forming of a special committee to seriously supervise women's basketball.

However the disappointing fact that only three teams will be competing has made the problem worse and the already inadequate once-a-year competition will be completed over a period of ten days.

Over the years this regrettable state of women's basketball has forced the clubs who maintain women's teams to

host foreign teams in order to give players an incentive and keep them busy throughout the season.

Jordan's women's champions commenced their season early this year when they played a series of matches in Aleppo, Syria. They met league leaders Al Horriyeh, runners-up Al Yarmouk and Al Jala.

The titleholders are expected to be ready and determined to retain their trophy as they prepare to host top four regional teams in Al Jazireh's women's international tournament later this month. The last foreign team to play in Jordan were Lebanon's Homentmen who were hosted by their Jordanian counterparts in June 1992.

Despite months of postponements and a meeting of coaches of women's teams, it seems that the timing of the women's championship did not suit most clubs as players only began serious practice after ending school and university examinations.

"Training did not go according to plan as many players missed practice," Al Jazireh's head coach Fadi Sabbah told the Jordan Times. "Tawjihi exams ended right before the competitions and one couldn't expect players to give priority to basketball at such a time."

The state of women's basketball has been regressing since 1983 when the women's national team last competed and competitions were put on hold for over six years.

Since then, the former JBF announced the regrouping of the women's team in December 1992. However players are still awaiting for practice to begin.

Women's basketball began its latest comeback in the 1989-90 season when three teams, Al Orthodoxi, Al Ahli, and Homentmen competed in the championship which was won by Al Orthodoxi.

In 1991, Al Jazireh joined the women's championship and finished fourth after the three aforementioned teams.

In the 1992 competition, Al Jazireh clinched third

place from Homentmen, and in 1993 defied expectations by clinching the title away from Al Orthodoxi.

Al Jazireh have since recruited two pivotal players, Jumana Salti and Rana Hussein, who alongside Tala Al Mawji, Suhair Makusi and the rest of the ambitious team-mates are expected to be well prepared to assert themselves as Jordan's champions before they face Lebanese champions Homentmen, Syria's runners-up Al Jala, Kefalorysos of Cyprus and a select team from the occupied territories during their July 23-29 championships.

Al Jazireh's only real rival in the JBF championship are former champions Al Orthodoxi, who together with Al Ahli are the top contenders for the season's basketball titles.

Al Jazireh, sponsored by Aramex, are a growing powerhouse in Jordanian basketball. In addition to the women's title last year they also clinched the youth's under-14 and under-16 titles, while their men's team finished third in the first division, and second in the under-19 competition.

Al Jazireh last month clinched their first trophy of the season when they overcame Al Ahli to win the U-22 championship.

Al Orthodoxi clinch under-16 trophy

Al Orthodoxi secured their first basketball title of the season when they ended the under-16 championship with an unbeaten streak and stripped titleholders Al Jazireh of the title.

Al Orthodoxi's promising players crushed Al Abbasi 94-23 on the final day of the tournament sponsored by Opel.

Al Jazireh came in second despite losing to Al Ahli 64-52 in an earlier match.

Al Orthodoxi had secured their title earlier this week when they overcame the titleholders 70-50.

Al Ahli had to be content with third place after losing 70-56 to Al Orthodoxi, and 64-54 to Al Jazireh in earlier matches.

## Premier involved in on-off Irish World Cup party

DUBLIN (R) — Prime Minister Albert Reynolds was involved in frantic efforts Wednesday to rescue an on-off party of the year for the homecoming Irish World Cup soccer squad — with or without the manager of the side.

Government sources said Reynolds was keen to hold what could be Ireland's biggest street party after it was abruptly cancelled Tuesday because manager Jack Charlton and key players said they would not be coming to Dublin yet.

Reynolds asked Dublin council to reconvene and try to salvage the festivities, which were expected to have attracted more than half a million people to the Phoenix Park on the capital's outskirts.

The celebration was to have capped three weeks of festivities during which this nation of 3.5 million people

was fixed before television sets following the progress of the side finally kicked off of the tournament 2-0 by Netherlands.

But Monday night, Englishman Charlton told the organisers that he would not be coming back as he has contracted to do television commentary work with a British company.

It also emerged that several key players including captain Andy Townsend would not be coming to Dublin — it is home to few of the players because most are members of English or Scottish clubs and live in Britain.

Charlton said he had repeatedly informed the Irish football authorities of his television contract and that he would not be back in Ireland immediately after the side's interest in the tournament ended.

"I am hurt by suggestions

that I am opting out of the homecoming — even more by suggestions that, if players were getting paid for it, they would go to Dublin," he told the Irish Times.

"Those kind of remarks are beneath contempt. The fact is that some players' families have come out here to go on holiday before they report back for pre-season training."

Irish radio stations buzzed with reports about which players would be returning. The Irish Times reported that up to 20 members of the 22-man squad had agreed to come to Dublin under pressure from organisers and fans.

The team's World Cup progress, which included an historic 1-0 win over soccer giants Italy in the opening game June 18, united Ireland in a show of national pride unseen since the Pope's 1979 visit.

## Hagi postpones transfer talks

ARCADIA, California (R) — Romania captain Gheorghe Hagi said Tuesday he was flattered by reports linking him with Barcelona and Tottenham, but said he would not make any decisions about his future until after the World Cup.

"If Mr. Cruyff at Barcelona is interested in me, I am delighted, and if Tottenham are interested in me that is a very high compliment from an English club."

"But I cannot think about those things now. I am here in the United States with Romania in the World Cup and nothing else matters to me."

## Maradona's adviser receives death threats

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Anonymous threats have been made to kill Daniel Cerrini, who is alleged to have administered the banned products that led to Diego Maradona's expulsion from the World Cup.

The threats were made in calls to Cerrini's family, who have denied the dietician prescribed ephedrine for Argentina's World Cup captain.

Friends say they are worried following the murder of Colombian World Cup defender Andres Escobar, who was shot on Saturday in Medellin after scoring on own goal in the United States.

All that is known Cerrini's present whereabouts is that he is still in the United States.

Meanwhile, Argentina coach Alfio Basile dismissed claims Maradona's film star behaviour had disrupted the

team. "Frankly, he surprised me. He trained three times a day and behaved like a real pro," Basile told the Clarin newspaper.

"That was all that counted. The rest didn't interest me." Basile said Maradona was surrounded by hangers-on and did not mix with the rest of the team once training was finished.

"But otherwise he did everything I asked of him," Basile added.

He said if Argentina had had Maradona and the injured Claudio Caniggia they would have reached the final.

Basile had already marked out 20-year-old Arnaldo Ortega as Maradona's successor.

"He has a gift from heaven. Anybody would want a player like him in their side."



Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, who is surrounded by winners of various categories in the Ambassador of Pakistan Trophy, attended the golf tournament at the Bisharat Course July 1

## Pakistani envoy's tourney proves to be popular

AMMAN (J.T.) — Golf in Amman at the Bisharat Course continues to be popular. The Ambassador of Pakistan Trophy, now established as one of the prestigious tournaments in the Jordanian golfing calendar, not least because it is followed by a delicious Pakistani lunch, was played for the third time since its inception three years ago, on July 1, 1994. Incidentally the Pakistani initiative has been followed by other embassies such as South Korean, Japanese and for the first time this year, the

British. Thirty-seven players competed in the following categories: Open. Handicap 0-14. Handicap 14-30. There were separate prizes for ladies and veterans. The winners, categorywise were as follows:

Open category  
Winner: W. Richardson.  
2nd: M. S. Park  
3rd: Shishir Dutta

Handicap 0-14  
Winner: R. Birkhead  
2nd: L. Bennet  
3rd: M. Bell

Handicap 15-30  
Winner: R. Allen  
2nd: P. Polletin  
3rd: R. Lyon

The ladies' prize was won by M. C. Kim and the veterans by D. Lockyer. The runner-up was Y. Joury.

The special prize of two air tickets to Pakistan donated by Pakistan International Airlines (P.I.A.) was won by R. Allen with the best nett score.

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Michael J. Fox James Woods in <b>The Hard Way</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Nabila Obeid and Farouk Al Fishawi in <b>Unveiling The Secrets</b> Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30		<b>CONCORD '1'</b> <b>PERFECT WORLD</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> <b>MY STEP MOTHER IS AN ALIEN</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15		Bob Hoskins in <b>Super Mario Bros</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy <b>"PUNCTURED BAG"</b>		Present their play: <b>WHAT A PEACE!</b> (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tues days.	

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Helicopter flights to link Gaza to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Direct civilian helicopter flights between the autonomous Gaza Strip and Egypt will start in August, the director general of Egyptair said Wednesday. Mohammad Fahim Rayyan told journalists that the Egyptian national airline would cooperate with "the Palestinians to link Gaza to international capitals, via the Egyptian airports of Cairo and Al Arish." The latter lies 300 kilometres northeast of Cairo. He stressed that only helicopters carrying a maximum of 50 people would be allowed to fly over the autonomous territories, under the accord signed in Cairo on May 4 launching Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Passengers arriving by helicopter from Gaza would then join Egyptian flights to their destination. Mr. Rayyan added that the terms of this cooperation had been agreed with the head of the Palestinians' civil aviation body, Fayez Zeidan.

## Abiola charged with treason and felony

ABUJA (AFP) — Nigeria's military government Wednesday charged opposition leader Moshood Abiola with treason and felony in a specially created federal court, witnesses said. Mr. Abiola, who was taken to the court in an armoured police van under heavy security, pleaded not guilty. Police had earlier arrested Frank Kokori, the secretary general of the country's main oil and gas workers' union, the union's president, Warri Aganene, told AFP. The arrest was reported as his union, the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, entered Wednesday the third day of a strike to pressure the military government of General Sani Abacha to hand over power to Mr. Abiola. Mr. Abiola is widely believed to have won presidential elections in June 1993 whose results were shelved by the military after being declared free and fair by international observers. He was arrested on June 23, just under two weeks after declaring the current military government illegal and announcing himself the legitimate head of government.

## Nationalist official killed in Algeria

Algiers (AFP) — A member of the National Patriotic Rally (NPR), Ibrahim Benaziza, was killed overnight in the eastern Algerian town of Annaba by unidentified gunmen, the daily newspaper Le Soir reported here Wednesday. Benaziza, a member of the local NPR branch in Annaba, was sitting with friends at a terrace cafe when several men shot him to death before fleeing, the newspaper said. The NPR was created by the late Algerian President Mohammed Boudiaf, killed on June 29, 1992, at Annaba. The nationalist party that uses "Algeria first" as its slogan, has become divided since Boudiaf returned to Algeria in January 1992 from exile in Morocco to become president and was assassinated shortly afterwards by one of his bodyguards as he was making a speech.

## Rafsanjani urges closer ties between Iran, India

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and India should develop stronger ties, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Wednesday during a meeting here with Indian Foreign Minister R. L. Bhatia. He said cooperation between the two countries was vital, the official news agency IRNA reported. And he called on Pakistan and India to solve the problem of Kashmir "peacefully and through talks." Iran, which has backed the Muslim separatists in Kashmir, has often criticised India's attitude to the problem of the disputed region in the past. Mr. Bhatia, who arrived early Wednesday in Tehran, handed over a message from Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. He also met his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati and was due to hold talks with parliament speaker Ali Akbar Nategh-Nuri.

## Iran: 3 held in Thailand are innocent

BANGKOK (AP) — Three Iranian men arrested in connection with an attempt to bomb the Israeli embassy in Bangkok are innocent, the Iranian ambassador said Wednesday. "Three innocent people now are in the custody of Thailand," said Gholamreza Yousefi. A truck rigged with a one-tonne bomb was abandoned in Bangkok in March after it collided with a motorcycle taxi. Thai police suspected a plot against the nearby Israeli embassy and arrested three men on June 3. At a news conference, Mr. Yousefi said Thai authorities have not provided any evidence implicating the men. He identified them as Hossein Dagini, Babak Taheri, and Amad Amadi Harary and said they all denied any wrongdoing. Thai police have said a man named Hossein Shahrari Far was the prime suspect in the case and was among those arrested on June 3. But Mr. Yousefi said Mr. Shahrari Far entered Thailand June 5, and therefore could not have been arrested on June 3. Mr. Yousefi said Mr. Shahrari Far was expelled from Thailand June 9 and is now in Malaysia.

## Group calls for arms embargo on Sudan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An international arms embargo should be imposed on Sudan in a bid to end severe human rights violations in the civil war, Human Rights Watch/Africa, said in a report released Thursday. "Specific military campaigns by the Sudan government and the two factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have caused starvation and devastating loss of civilian life," the group reported. In a 279-page report on the war in southern Sudan, the organisation addressed actions affecting 4.5 million residents of the southern region of the country, both by government forces and factions of the SPLA. "The way the war is waged is directly responsible for the suffering of the southern Sudanese," Human Rights Watch reported. In 1994, more than 100,000 people abandoned their homes to flee the latest offensive from government troops against Juba, a rebel stronghold, the group said.

## Lebanon bans Al Wasat magazine

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon has banned this week's edition of a London-based magazine for carrying an interview with a fugitive right-wing militia chief, officials said Wednesday. The ban on the Arabic-language weekly Al Wasat, which normally hits newsstands on Tuesday, was ordered by the general security department, said the officials. It was first such move in years in Lebanon, whose press takes pride in being the freest in the Arab world. The controversial interview in the Saudi-owned magazine was with Ghassan Tuma, security chief of the outlawed Lebanese Forces, the group that fielded the main rightist militia during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. Mr. Tuma and imprisoned Lebanese Forces chief Samir Geagea, were indicted in the Feb. 27 bombing of a Maronite Catholic Church north of Beirut in which 10 worshippers were killed. Both also were indicted in the October 1990 murder of rival Christian leader Dany Chamoun, his wife and their sons. Lebanese authorities have asked Interpol to help pin down Mr. Tuma's whereabouts to seek his extradition to stand trial with Dr. Geagea.

## Vanuatu establishes ties with Israel

PORT VILA (AFP) — Vanuatu established diplomatic ties with Israel Wednesday when the Jewish state's Fiji-based Ambassador Shmuel Moyal presented his credentials to Vanuatu President Jean-Marie Leye. Mr. Moyal, who is responsible for all Pacific island nations apart from Australia and New Zealand, also met Vanuatu Prime Minister Maxime Carlot and chief Justice Charles Vaudin d'Imecourt.



SELF-RULE CABINET: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Tuesday chairs the first meeting of his Palestine National Authority in Jericho. Planning Minister Nabil Shaath (fourth from right) said Wednesday that Mr. Arafat will settle in the Gaza Strip by mid-July to try to rebuild the economy for a population which is expecting more than mere words. (AFP photo)

## U.S., S. Korea at odds over N. Korean nuclear funding

SEOUL (AFP) — A behind-the-scenes dispute between the United States and South Korea over who should supply and fund "clean" nuclear technology to North Korea was made public in parliament on Wednesday.

Opposition legislator Lee Chul accused Washington of pressing Seoul to shoulder the cost of replacing Pyongyang's graphite-moderated reactors with light-water systems, which produce less plutonium.

The U.S. government wants Seoul to put up \$2 billion while using Russian technology instead of South Korean models, Mr. Lee told parliament, quoting documents allegedly obtained from U.S. sources.

Mr. Lee said Washington was refusing to let South Korea provide its own technology, which has been gathered in decades of tie-ups with the U.S., Canada and France.

In recent talks in New York, Washington suggested Russia's light-water reactors be provided to Pyongyang, reportedly arguing that the cost could be counted as partial repayment of South Korean loans to Moscow.

But Seoul opposed the U.S. proposal, citing potential problems concerning

"safety, technology and sovereignty." Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-joong told parliament.

Mr. Kim said U.S., Japanese and South Korean officials discussed the question of funding and replacing North Korea's controversial reactors, but no agreement has been reached.

He confirmed South Korea was ready to provide its nuclear technology to North Korea, which has agreed to hold the first-ever inter-Korean summit July 25-27 in Pyongyang.

South Korea has offered North Korea substantial economic benefits in return for giving up its nuclear weapons programme, including a programme to finance the transformation of its nuclear reactors.

Government officials told newspapers here Wednesday Seoul hoped to supply technology to Pyongyang, but Washington was reluctant because the South Korean model is based on U.S. technology.

Japan also reportedly reacted unfavourably to the use of South Korean technology and argued for an international consortium.

Washington recommended the Russian reactor because it is cheaper and North Korea

is more accustomed to Russian technology, guaranteeing better safety management, the reports said.

But Mr. Kim said his government prefers the Korean-style reactors for North Korea.

"Our government, is all prepared over this issue from the approach of furnishing power to North Korea in economic cooperation," he added, raising speculation here that the offer was to be included in a package deal President Kim Young-Sam will take to the summit.

The question of changing North Korean reactors will be high on the agenda on Friday, when Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of state, sits down for talks with North Korean officials in Geneva.

North Korea conveyed its offer to freeze its controversial nuclear programme through former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Pyongyang in mid-June.

Mr. Carter said on his return from Pyongyang that the North was interested in replacing the graphite system with light-water reactors.

The flap reactor changes comes as South Korea's nuclear industry is coming of age to seek out overseas markets for its technological exports.

## Beilin: No release of Yassin unless he signs anti-violence undertaking

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said as talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) resumed in Paris on Wednesday that it would stand firm on its terms for releasing the Hamas movement's jailed founder, whose freedom is a key demand of Yasser Arafat.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, speaking on Israel Television, also said elections for the Palestinian self-governing authority might take place later by the October target set by PLO officials.

Mr. Arafat capped a triumphant five-day return to the newly autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho with talks in Paris on Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on completing and expanding their peace deal on interim Palestinian self-rule.

Mr. Beilin said Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin would stay in prison unless he met an Israeli demand that all Palestinian prisoners sign a pledge renouncing violence and supporting the peace process as a condition

of their release.

"We will not free the many who in their very extreme ideological position against us are unwilling to sign such an undertaking, even if it's the man whose name Yasser Arafat repeated in speeches in both Gaza and Jericho — Ahmad Yassin," Mr. Beilin told Israel Television.

Mr. Arafat, who seeks Hamas backing to underpin the peace deal, urged the sheikh's release before cheering crowds during his landmark five-day visit to self-rule areas. He left Gaza for Egypt en route to Paris just after dawn on Wednesday.

"We have many issues to discuss with Mr. Rabin," Mr. Arafat said before leaving Gaza. "Our agenda is full of topics to implement the (peace) accord, particularly the release of prisoners."

The wheelchair-bound Yassin founded Hamas shortly after the start of the Palestinian uprising in 1987. He is serving a life term plus 15 years for allegedly ordering the killing of Israelis and Arab collaborators. Hamas has vowed to wreck the peace

deal.

The release of Sheikh Yassin and thousands of other Palestinians in Israeli jails is seen as crucial to Mr. Arafat's struggle to marshal grassroots Palestinian support.

Mr. Beilin cast a measure of doubt on statements by PLO officials that Palestinian elections could be held in October.

"I wouldn't count on elections in the territories in October," he said, disputing between PLO officials in Tunis and in the territories could delay the vote on a legislative council.

The timing of the election is being closely watched because under the peace accord a new stage of Israeli troop withdrawals from West Bank population centres will accompany the vote.

Senior PLO official Nabil Shaath said elections would "absolutely" be held by the end of this year.

Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres were originally invited to Paris to receive a U.N. peace prize honouring their efforts to end generations of Israeli-Palestinian bloodletting.

## Ekeus dampens Baghdad hopes

BAGHDAD (R) — A U.N. envoy heading a commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction following the Gulf war ruled out on Wednesday an early start to a crucial monitoring programme.

"It is difficult to have the monitoring system in place for September," Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraq, told Reuters before leaving Baghdad.

Mr. Ekeus arrived in Baghdad on Monday and had several meetings with senior Iraqi officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

He said the delay was needed because the "magnitude and task of the programme has grown up so much." He did not elaborate.

But he said both his commission and the Iraqis were racing against time to have the programme completed in the near future.

With all or most of Iraq's past dangerous weapons now located or accounted for, Mr. Ekeus is working on a long-term monitoring programme that would require inspections for years to come.

The purpose is to ensure Iraq does not reacquire nuclear, ballistic missile, biological or chemical weapons.

Mr. Ekeus, who later left for Kuwait, said he was aware of the suffering of the Iraqi people "whose patience is highly motivated... (but) one must remember this is a big task."

He said U.N. members were interested in having the programme in place as quickly as possible. He said even the United States, which has linked removal of sanctions to non-arms issues, "has been strongly helping us keep in high speed."

Mr. Ekeus said the

periodic review of Iraq sanctions in mid-July will be "more of a type of reflection and assessment" and that portions of the deliberations by the Security Council would have to be deferred to September.

Iraq had hoped Mr. Ekeus would announce the start of the programme in July, thereby boosting a growing trend in the council towards rewarding Baghdad for its recent cooperation.

Iraq's anger was reflected in the almost total blackout on Mr. Ekeus' visit to Baghdad. The official press ignored him on Wednesday and there was no mention of his deliberations with Mr. Aziz on state television and radio.

Mr. Ekeus praised Iraqi cooperation and described his talks as "open, candid, clear and very positive." He did not go into details.

Iraq insists it has done all that is required under the ceasefire terms and it was time that UNSCOM announced the completion of its work in Iraq.

Once UNSCOM grants Iraq a clean bill of health, the Security Council is obliged under resolution 687 to lift the ban on Iraqi exports, including its all-important oil.

Mr. Ekeus said his commission was now at a very important stage in implementing the ceasefire arrangements, but still needed more time to declare that "Iraq had fulfilled obligations under paragraph 22."

The paragraph, part of Resolution 687, unfreezes Iraqi assets and allows exports.

Mr. Ekeus later arrived in Kuwait, where he met foreign ministers of eight Arab states meeting to discuss the Yemeni civil war and the situation in Iraq.

## Iran reels from blasts, killing of church leaders

TEHRAN (AFP) — A spate of bomb attacks on shrines and mosques coupled with a string of murders of religious leaders has left Iran reeling, prompting fears of a campaign to destabilise the country.

Tehran believes the attacks against Christian and Shiite and Sunni Muslim targets are aimed at sparking tension between the country's religious groups.

The most serious attack was a bomb blast in the mausoleum of Imam Reza in Mashhad, Iran's holiest Shiite Muslim shrine, which killed 24 pilgrims and wounded 70 more on June 20.

Many Iranians have blamed the extremist Wahabi Sunni Muslim sect based in Pakistan which has already attacked Shiite targets in Iran.

But the authorities have pointed the finger at the main armed opposition group, the Iraqi-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq, which it said wanted to cause intercommunal strife.

The Mujahideen denied planting the bomb, but the official accusation succeeded in warding off potential revenge attacks by extremist Shiite Muslims against Iran's minority Sunnis, who make up 15 per cent of the population.

Since then, Tehran has heaped accusations on the opposition group.

Authorities arrested a man who they said was a Mujahideen member for trying to plant a bomb in a Sunni mosque in the southeastern city of Zahedan, several days after the Mashhad explosion. Zahedan, which is near the Pakistani border and has a

Sunni majority, was the scene of violent anti-government protests in February following the demolition of a Sunni mosque by authorities at Mashhad.

A bomb exploded in the main Shiite mosque in Zahedan several weeks later.

On Tuesday, Tehran said the Mujahideen were behind another bombing attempt on two symbolic targets.

Authorities said two women tried to plant bombs in the shrine of the founder of the Islamic republic, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in a Tehran suburb, and in Iran's second holiest Shiite site, the Hazrat Maasumeh mausoleum in Qom, south of Tehran.

For the first time several Iranian leaders have suggested the attacks may be linked to tension between Shiite and Sunni communities.

Vice President Ayatollah Mohajerani said Monday it was "possible" the Sunni Wahabi sect was informed of the Mashhad bombing in advance.

The mysterious deaths of two pastors from Iran's tiny Protestant communities in the last several days have added to the tension.

Pastors Tedhis Mikhailan and Mehdi Dibaj were both discovered dead, following the kidnapping and murder of a third pastor Haik Hovsepian in January.

An Iranian Protestant said Wednesday the triple deaths had left the 15,000-strong community in a state of shock, and "confirmed the existence of a growing climate of intolerance towards Protestants" in Iran.

## COLUMN

## King, queen of Norway begin U.K. visit

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway arrived on the royal yacht Norge for a four-day state visit to Scotland. They were greeted with a 21-gun royal salute from the Royal Navy frigate HMS Marlborough and a flypast by six Royal Air Force Tornado jets. Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, were meeting the Norwegians later Tuesday for a drive through Edinburgh to the queen's Holyroodhouse Palace. Hundreds of sightseers were expected to line the route for a glimpse of the royal couples.

## Police appeal to kidnapper of new-born baby

NOTTINGHAM, England (AFP) — The detective heading an inquiry into the snatching of a new-born baby from a hospital made a personal appeal for the young female kidnapper to contact the mother of the child. "I want to appeal directly to you, the woman who is now holding Abbie. You have your own problems that led you to take her, Inspector Harry Shepherd said, referring to Abbie Humphries, who was snatched from the Queen's Medical Centre here Friday, four hours after being born. He called on the woman to phone Karen Humphries, Abbie's mother, to "let Karen know Abbie is well... I realise you Love Abbie, but she is Karen's child, not yours," he said. The kidnapper, dressed in a nurse's blouse, took the baby from the arms of her father on the pretext that she had to have a hearing test and escaped with the baby. The blouse was found in one of the hospital's toilets. "You must feel really lonely to take such a step," the commissioner said. "We do understand and are ready to give you all the help, understanding and support appropriate to your needs," he added. Health Minister Tom Sackville said the case raised the question of security in hospitals.

Man with 10 wives ready to 'face God' for offence

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — A Singaporean with 10 wives said he was ready to "answer to God" when charged in a Malaysian court for breach of Islamic laws allowing only four wives at one time, local newspapers reported Wednesday. "I do not intend to engage a lawyer as I will be defending myself. I am ready to answer to God," Abu Talib Haron, 34, told Judge Zaidinuddin Munsaj of the Shariah (religious) Court in Johor Bahru, capital of southern Johore state. Abu Talib pleaded not guilty to 18 charges, including that of having more than four wives at one time and engaging in illicit sex with six women companions. He also faces charge of being involved in deviant Islamic teachings. Malaysian authorities arrested Abu Talib and his 10 wives and confiscated several pornographic videotapes during a raid in Johor Bahru in April, the reports said.

## Seminar to be held on Asia's street children

BANGKOK (AFP) — Six South East Asian countries are to take part in a seminar aimed at drawing attention to the problem of the region's street children, the European Union (EU) ambassador to Thailand said. Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam will send both government and non-governmental representatives to the conference, organised by the EU and held in Pattaya, south of Bangkok, from July 11 to 13. Delegates will discuss the situation of street children in each of the participating countries, focusing on child labour and prostitution. EU Ambassador Gwyn Morgan told a press conference here. "If attention is not given to street children now, the petty thieves of today may become the hardened criminals of tomorrow," said Mr. Morgan, adding that in the Philippines alone there were 1.5 million street children.

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